Ruchell Magee, Class-War Captive, Held Since 1963 (See page 4)

COMMEMORATOR

Published by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party

Volume 13, Number 3 | Suggested Donation 2.00 | October 2003

New Witness Steps Forward in Defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Photo by Charles Taylor

July 4, 2003 downtown Philadelphia, protesters marched in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal's release from prison, demanding justice for all U.S. political prisoners.

By Hans Bennett

For more than 20 years the movement to free black death-row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal has tirelessly battled an onslaught of repressive forces. The movement has been neither intimidated nor defeated. In addition to essays written every week, Mumia's fourth book has just been released: *Faith of Our Fathers: An Examination of the Spiritual Life of African and African-American People*. Mumia and his supporters have continued to apply pressure in both the courts and on the streets.

A new witness [see *Caught Up in a Vicious Cycle* on page 3] further challenges the police accusation that Mumia confessed to killing Faulkner as he lay in the hospital after the shooting. In his new declaration, witness Kenneth Pate states that in a 1983 telephone conversation, his half-sister and hospital security guard Priscilla Durham took back her 1982 court testimony that she had heard Abu-Jamal confess while in the hospital for gunshot wounds, yelling "I shot the motherfucker and I hope he dies." Pate's new statement would seem to be of interest to anyone searching for the truth of what happened to both Abu-Jamal and Faulkner. But when Mumia's attorneys attempted to file a "remand motion" with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court requesting that Abu-Jamal's case be returned to a lower court to take Pate's testimony, the court clerk rejected the motion. The clerk cited Appellate Rule 2501(a). This rule prohibits the filing of a "brief, memorandum, or letter" after a case is taken under submission by the court. Mumia's attorneys argue that their "remand motion" is not a "brief, memorandum, or letter" and that the rule should not apply. Mumia's attorneys also point out that even if the

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Corporate Profits Versus Public Education

By Commemorator Staff

While the federal government passed another $350 billion tax cut for the wealthy corporations in June, school districts around the nation announced more teacher layoffs, cutbacks in the number of school days and the axing of more programs. Employees around the country are getting pink slips and seeing their pension funds looted by criminal profit-taking, such as Enron and WorldCom.

"When the federal government has a cold, local government has pneumonia," commented Keith Carson, Alameda County, California District 5 Supervisor referring to American people footing the cost of the Iraqi war. "The money spent so far is equivalent to $31.4 billion per month or $7.2 billion a week, and those numbers don't even include Homeland Security." In addition when you add on the California tax dollars taken from public education on the one hand, and tax subsidies given to wealthy corporations, on the other hand, you can start to see why our public schools are in crisis.

The Oakland California school district laid off 300 teachers in spring 2003 and all who remain on the job took a 4% salary cut. Meantime, President Bush has led the federal government to a historic federal deficit of $450 billion, and Governor Davis has led California from a $4 billion surplus to a $38 billion deficit. California has gone from being among the top five states in the nation to among the bottom ten in per-pupil education spending.

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CCBPP Photo

May 8, California capitol building: students of all grade levels, teachers and organizers, turned out in the rain, in front of the state capitol building, demanding that state budget reflect the education needs of the people,"Yes to schools, No to incarceration!"

CCBPP Photo

Dolores Huerta, longtime farm labor leader, led the spirited chant for education and economic justice.

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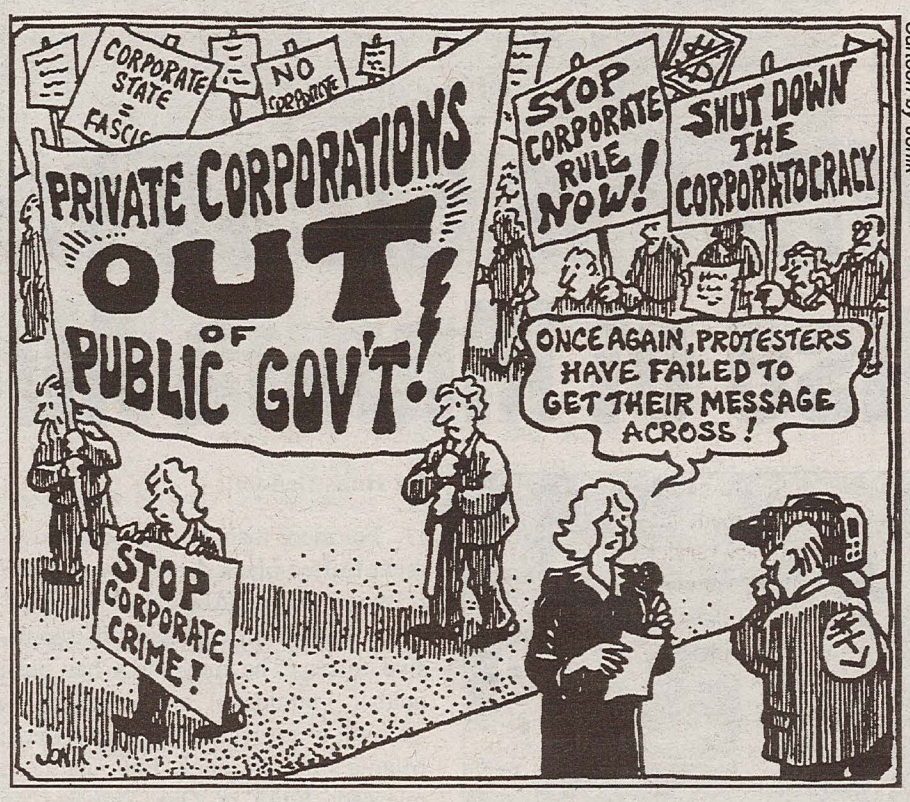
Editorial

Hiding Cost of War — Tax Hikes for Americans Come Home to Roost

"The Black Panther Party says it is perfectly correct to organize the proletarians because after they are kicked out of the factory and are called unemployable or lumpen, they still want to live, and in order to live they have to eat"
Dr. Huey P. Newton (1970)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SHUT DOWN THE CORPORATOCRACY
ONCE AGAIN, PROTESTERS HAVE FAILED TO GET THEIR MESSAGE ACROSS!
STOP CORPORATE CRIME!
JONIK
Cartoon by Jonik

By Melvin Dickson

While U.S. taxpayers cough up over $4 billion a month for the war in Iraq, the Bush administration has now proposed to have the American tax payers fork over an additional $87 billion for the U.S. military engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is just to maintain the present military operation in that part of the world, where U.S. soldier casualties grow daily.

With a rising death rate of American soldiers in Iraq, the multi-billion dollar war's cost now has the attention of many Americans. Even the overall commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, General John Abizaid, says that American troops are now fighting against a "classic guerrilla-type campaign," that is expected to last for many years to come, with heavy cost in lives and tax-dollars.

Inside the United States, 2.6 million jobs have disappeared over the past two years. According to government data, almost 90% of those lost jobs were in manufacturing, with blacks hit disproportionately harder than whites. A recent *New York Times* study, by Louis Uchitelle states that, "Black employment in manufacturing, once concentrated in the Midwest and Northeast, is now spread across every state as companies have migrated to lower-wage towns and cities." With an increasing number of these companies migrating again — this time overseas in search of yet lower labor costs — the job loss in manufacturing has intensified.

Every state has lost manufacturing jobs over the last three years, according to a study by the National Association of Manufacturers. Since the passing of NAFTA, in 1992 under the Clinton administration, and other so-called "free trade agreements." U.S. government has forsaken its working class so that multinational corporations can increase profits.

The Expansion of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)

The Republican House recently approved the addition of Singapore and Chile to the free trade pacts. "It's time for us to stand up and defend the few good paying jobs we have left in this country," said Representative Pete Stark, D-Fremont, an opponent of the two measures. Bush's fast track authority to approve these changes was a gift from Congress last year. In a criticism of the continual expansion of free trade zones, Mumia Abu-Jamal wrote: "NAFTA means low wages for workers. NAFTA is a political creation of U.S. and multinational capital and thus designed to provide corporate interests with a larger pool for production with lower wages, and also with dramatically lessened environmental regulations. NAFTA pulls the plug out of the tub, and quickens the economic whoosh down the drain for U.S. labor. Consider any politician's stand on NAFTA and you will know whether he supports the rights of those who labor, or of those who boss (and profit from) labor."

States Cut Vital Programs

States throughout the country are cutting vital programs in health care, education, and low-income housing for the poor and working class as though the lives of the ruling class depend on it. The California budget crisis manifests a national trend, with

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Opinions and positions taken in articles with bylines are those of their writer. The views expressed in the bylined editorial and opinion pieces published by The Commemorator *do not necessarily indicate its endorsement or support.* — The Editor

37th Anniversary/Commemoration For the Black Panther Party

BPP History
Emory Douglas,
former BPP Minister of Culture

Special report on the Oakland Riders case:
John Burris
(Oakland civil right Attorney)

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COMMEMORATOR

Published by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party
"SERVING ALL OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES"
Volume 13, Number 3,
October 2003, Oakland, California

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Opinion

Soldiers of Misfortune

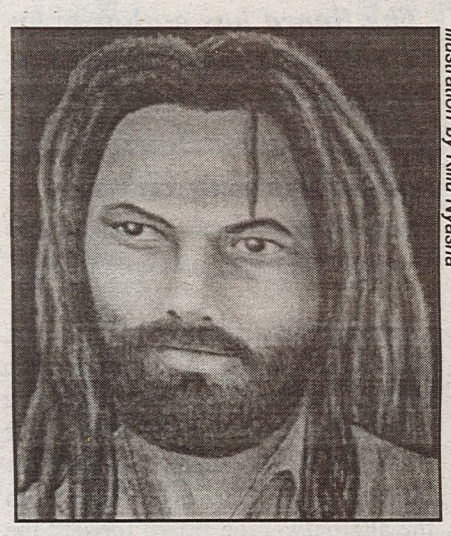

Illustration by Kiilu Nyasha

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Every politician worth his or her salt speaks sweet words of endearment about the young soldiers on the periphery of the American Empire. They're "brave," "courageous" and "defenders of 'our' freedoms." Everyone in power seems to be basking in the glow of spring love for 'our' young warriors, but if time teaches us anything about the praises of politicians, it is that such sweet words last about as long as cotton candy in an April shower.

The raging protests of Vietnam forced the government to deep-six the draft

If we are honest, and if we look at things from the perspective of political leaders, we see that soldiers are but instruments of state power. They're seen as, say a queen bee 'sees' a drone; they are expendable.

How can we come to any other conclusion in light of the way veterans of military engagements past are treated, not by protesters who may oppose their imperial violence, but by the State that employed their services?

Soldiers of World War II were subjected to dangerous exposure to radioactive materials causing uncounted effects in thousands of men over generations. The veterans of Vietnam were exposed to the ravages of Agent Orange, but found their enemies not in grass and mud hootches in the subtropics of Asia, but in the Veteran's Administration hospitals, the chemical companies, and the politicians who represent their interests, who rejected their health concerns for at least a generation.

When thousands of men and women went to the (first) Gulf War, they experienced serious life-threatening illnesses that they called the Gulf War Syndrome. Who opposed them, assuring them that it was 'just in their minds'? The same folks who opposed their predecessors!

The raging protests of Vietnam forced the government to deep-six the draft (which had been unpopular since the Civil War), and institute what they claimed was an 'all-volunteer' service. Yet, who volunteers—and why? Studies have shown that low-income levels and chronic unemployment is an important element in why some people opt for military service. Slick, computer-generated ad campaigns promise thousands of dollars for college, and emphasize individuality under the "Army of One" pitch. With few prospects of a career in an economy driven by recession, and the demoralizing weight of a dead-end job (if one is able to get one), the ads on TV can prove irresistible. The Philadelphia-based Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) considers the military's present recruitment efforts as a "poverty draft".

The Jennifer Lynch's of the world, surviving in the low-growth economic battlefield of West Virginia, find the military a viable, stable option in an unstable civilian economy. How many people in the services would be there, if education was truly affordable? Or if the economy was out of recession?

As Congress passes resolutions praising the troops, the very same House of Representatives moves to cut some $25 billion from veteran's health benefits over the next decade. The love of politicians seems ever so fickle these days. Meanwhile, more and more public dollars get funneled into the cavernous maw of the military-industrial-complex.

As this happens, we see the economic underpinnings of war.

Wars are not waged on behalf of the many, but for the few; those few who can, and will benefit from ravages of war, like oil companies, defense industries and the like. How can this most recent war be for the benefit of a people who overwhelmingly opposed it, in unprecedented numbers? Least of all, are wars fought for those who fight in them. They are drawn, overwhelmingly, from the ranks of the

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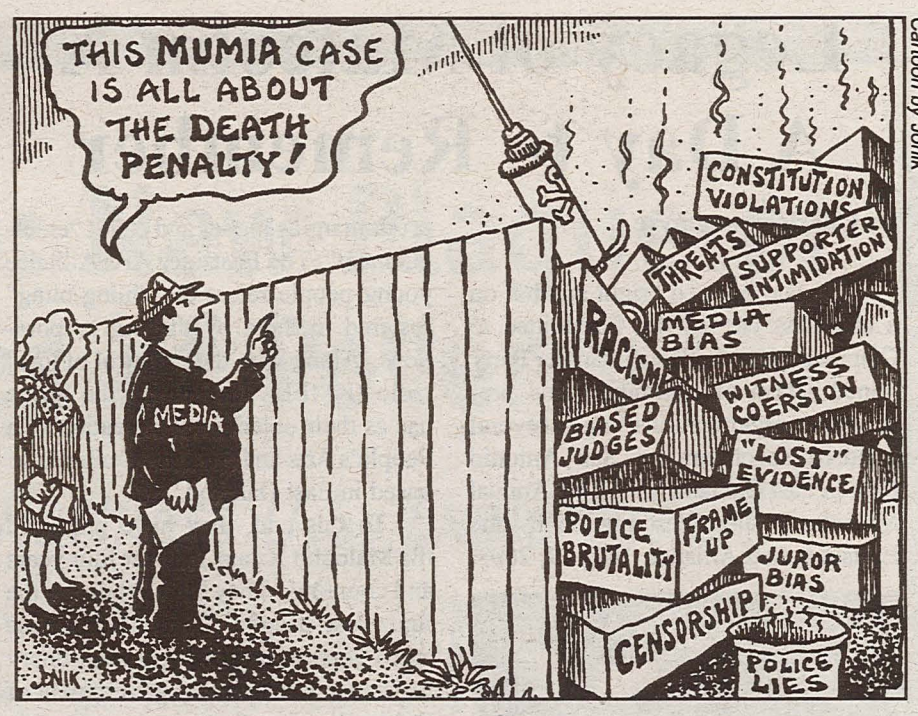

Cartoon by Jonik

Caught up in a Vicious Cycle

By Kenneth Pate

I lay in my bed the other night thinking about what I would say to the publishers to get them to see how tremendously valuable and important a publisher is to the struggle of the poor, the needy and the oppressed. And this thought came to me from the book of Isaiah: "How beautiful are the feet of him that publishes peace."

Dear Publishers…Please print these words, because they may mean the difference between my life and death. Police, prison guards, and their chosen commanding officers are all sworn into cult "Brotherhood;" ministering their own sense of justice, honor, death and destruction among the ranks of unsuspecting others; protected by the well-established "Blue Wall Order," banded together under the seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, virtue, liberty and independence. Together they prey on and upon unsuspecting citizens and prisoners alike. Notoriously corrupt, yet again, protected by another "Order" called "The System," which safeguarded by unscrupulous prosecutors concerned with little other than adding another notch in a career-boosting belt, distorted, altered, fabricated and otherwise manipulated evidence and facts to rob citizens and prisoners alike of life and liberty.

Citizens, prisoners and family members of prisoners have been asking themselves — "who is the oppressor?" Is it the man with the idea, or the one who carries out the idea? Ignorance, propaganda and gullibility

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Li'l Bobby Hutton Birthday

4th Annual Birthday Commemoration Ceremony

Saturday, April 19, 2003: 1200 noon, at the West Oakland Library, some 200 people attended the 4th Annual Birthday celebration of Li'l Bobby Hutton, sponsored by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party, It's About Time, and the Black Panther Alumni. "It's important for young people to know about Li'l Bobby Hutton," stated Kathleen Cleaver. "He saw Huey Newton as his role model, and Li'l Bobby was a model person. Us old people already know this! We knew him. The young people have to know now, so they can have someone to look up to, to know that things are possible."

The occasion was part of a defining moment. Former BPP members, family members, and friends of Li'l Bobby Hutton, representatives of youth organizations, including Native American youth, gathered to pay respect to a legacy of the Black

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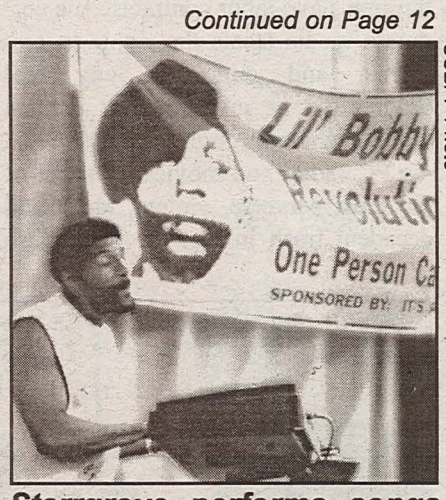

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Starrgrove performs songs of the late Marvin Gaye at the Bobby Hutton Birthday Celebration.

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Legacy of Malcolm X A Day to Remember

By Charles Longmyre

The sun beamed bright and hot on a cloudless day as the Committee to Commemorate the Black Panther Party joined a host of community and progressive organizations, and several hundred spectators, at San Antonio Park in East Oakland for the 4th Annual Malcolm X Jazz Fest put on by the Eastsidez Arts Alliance, May 17, 2003.

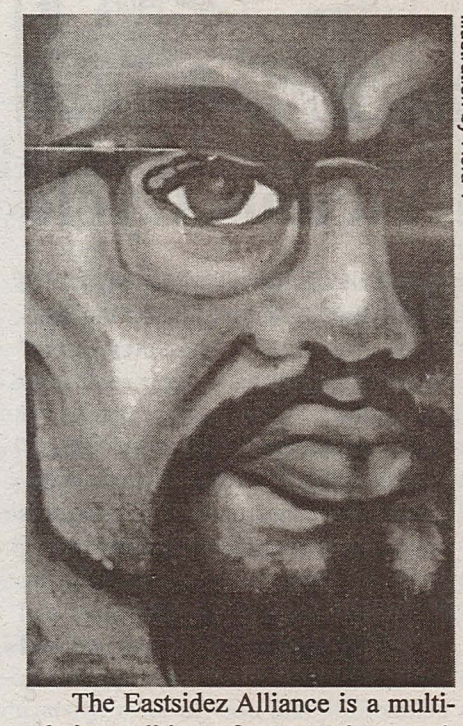

Illustration by Refa 1

The Eastsidez Alliance is a multi-ethnic coalition of progressive youth based in Oakland. The coalition holds a political view of arts and culture —of and by the people, and not the media corporations, which swallow up the creation of arts and culture in America, selling them back to the working poor and oppressed masses — the creators of culture — as products, fads, the hot new thing, sound or look. Culture, arts, music, fashion, concerts, books, records, CDs, DVDs, X-Box, gameboys, chat rooms and internet cafes are all one big industry where the bottom line is profit, and exploiting artists through slave-labor contracts. The corporate media steals the rights to creations, and cuts out any real progressive or revolutionary content while pushing through the mass media — TV, radio, and movies — some of the most perverse, violent, racist and decadent trash in history. They push profit margins higher and call it "entertainment". The Eastsidez Arts Alliance young people reject the "bling-bling" fostered in them by the big corporations. Along with their control of local radio (KMEL, Live 94.9), the group has as their objective the creation of a People's Arts and Cultural Center to be based in East Oakland.

To this end, they have produced the Malcolm X Jazz Fest for four years and counting. They have produced the Jazz Fest despite financial problems and 4 years of increasingly reactionary resistance from the city government of Oakland, who fears and strives to undercut, deter, or halt any type of independent, progressive action by the people or by youth. Independent movement of people of color and working people is seen as a threat to the continued dominance and control of the big corporations over not only culture and the arts but the whole of American society. A people's culture and arts center is a just demand, and should be supported.

The artists at the Jazz Fest echoed this sentiment through their words, music and dance. They showed in practice culture as education — inspiring, guiding, pro-active and revolutionary.

The Black Dot Collective; Boots Riley of the Coup; Revolutionary Poet of the Last Poets, Umar Bin Hassen; famed poet playwright and founder of the Black House Cultural Center, Marvin X; and the centerpiece of the whole Malcolm X Jazz Fest, the poet-laureate Amiri Baraka. Baraka brought the entire park to its feet in a standing ovation with his epic, well known, and controversial poem "9/11 — Somebody Blew up Amerika." But it was his haunting homage to El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz Malcolm X that best summed up the festival and its reason for happening — creating sound effects with his voice to mimic a radio transmission coming from far away, he repeats this refrain:

"Ma-ma Malcolm X, Malik-Malik, Malik El Shabazz."

"The Legacy of Malcolm X is a living active legacy. It is a role model,

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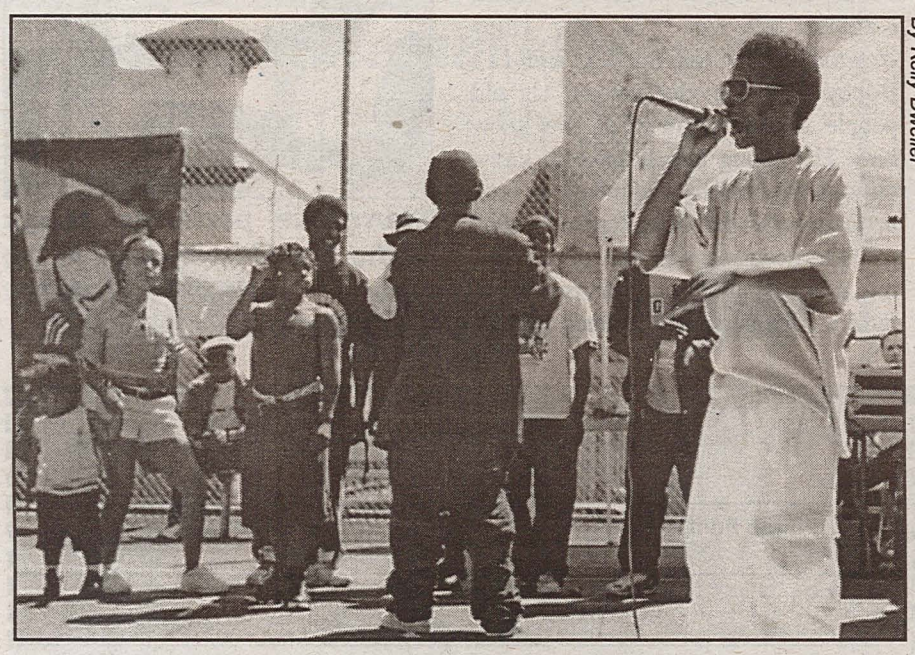

By Kelly Dweller

Eastsidez Alliance, a group of multi-ethnic youth in the performing arts, was widely represented in dance, poetry, and songs, as members above perform, at the 4th Annual Malcolm X Jazz Fest.

Ruchell Magee

U.S. Class War Prisoner, Held Captive Since 1963

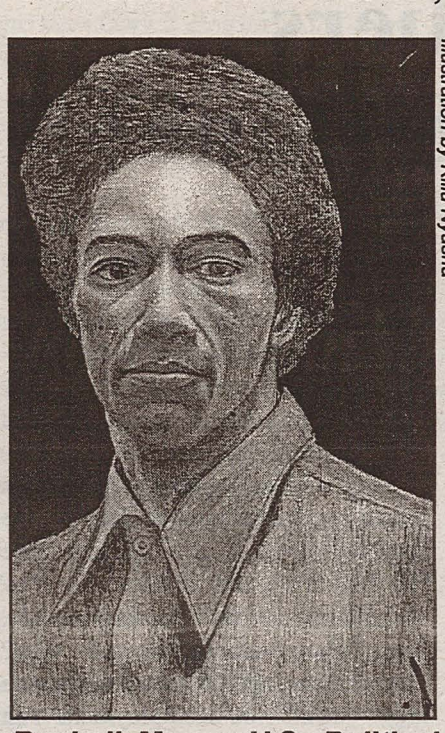

Illustration by Killu Nyasha

Ruchell Magee U.S. Political prisoner, held captive since 1963.

Editor's note: Bernard J. Suares, was the elected Jury Foreman in the trial of Ruchell Magee, from March 26, 1973, to April 3, 1973.

Magee was imprisoned in the state of California for a $10 crime, and then was locked away for the remainder of the time because of his political activities. The charges against him were related to his alleged participation in the August 7, 1970 rebellion at the Marin County Courthouse. Magee and William Christmas were appearing as witnesses for James McClain. Jonathan Jackson had entered the courtroom during the hearing. Jackson then stood up and shouted "Freeze!" and tossed weapons to McClain, Magee and Christmas. In an attempt to escape, before the men could get Jackson's van out of the courthouse parking lot, prison guards and sherriff's opened fire on the vehicle, killing Christmas, Jackson and McClain, as well as the judge. The D.A. was permanently paralyzed by gunfire. Magee is the only survivor of the 1970 Marin County Courthouse Rebellion.

A "not guilty" finding by the jury on the kidnapping charge stemming from the incident was suppressed from the public by California Attorney General Evelle Younger's office, and a retrial was held in Santa Clara County, in violation of Magee's constitutional right of protection against double jeopardy. Magee has been wrongfully imprisoned until this day.

The Board has authority by well-established law to release Magee. First, they should hold a Determinate Sentence Law Hearing.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: that, on May 12, 2003, at Corcoran State Prison, California, or as soon there after as the matter can be heard, your undersigned will move the Board for the release of M. Ruchell Magee, or in the alternative, the Board forward the matter to the California governor with recommendation for emergency pardon, because Mr. Magee is INNOCENT, and his life may be at great risk in prison on a kidnap charge of which he was acquitted.

This application is based upon this notice of EMERGENCY REQUEST, the attached declaration and other evidence produced before the Board, all files and records of the case.

DECLARATION OF: Bernard J. Suares

I, Bernard J. Suares hereby declare:

1) That I reside in San Francisco County.

2) That I was selected as jury foreman in the trial entitled: People vs Ruchell Magee. NO. 68668, Superior Court, San Francisco County.

3) That during the jury's deliberations (which commenced on March 26, 1973, and terminated April 3, 1973) all twelve jurors found Mr. Magee NOT GUILTY of violating P.C. 209 (kidnapping for the purpose of extortion).

4) That I informed trial Judge Morton Colvin by written votes that all twelve jurors had reached a unanimous "not guilty" verdict.

Without rendering a judgment on the acquittal Judge Colvin declared a mistrial on April 3, 1973.

On April 27, 1973, I filed a written declaration, which shows acquittal on the kidnap charge, with the Superior

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International Update

FIDEL SPEAKS: CUBA CONFRONTS THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Editor's note: In his May Day 2003 speech to the Cuban people, Fidel Castro lists the accomplishments of the Revolution and the new dangers posed by post-9/11 U S. aggression, and makes an appeal to the American people.

The following is a speech given by Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Republic of Cuba, at the May 1, 2003, May Day rally held in the Plaza de la Revolución in Havana.

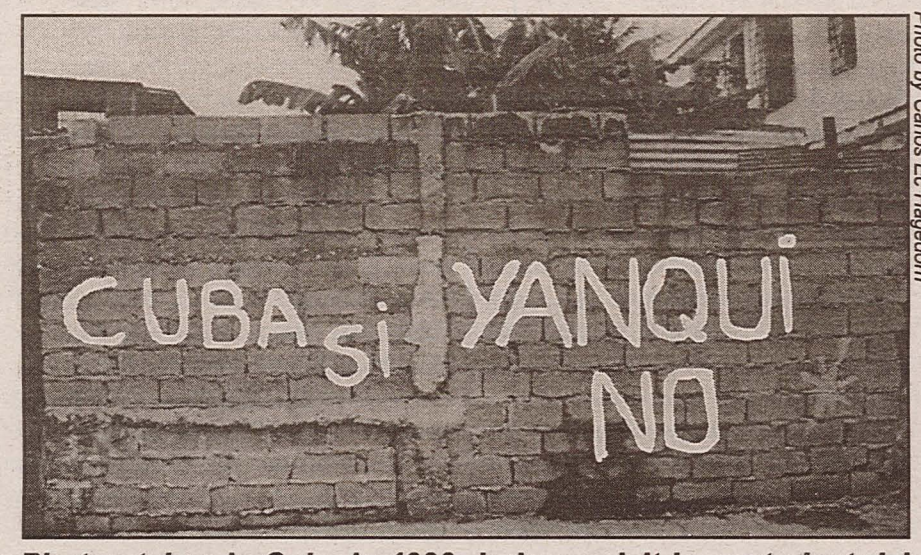


Photo by Carlos Ec Hagedorn

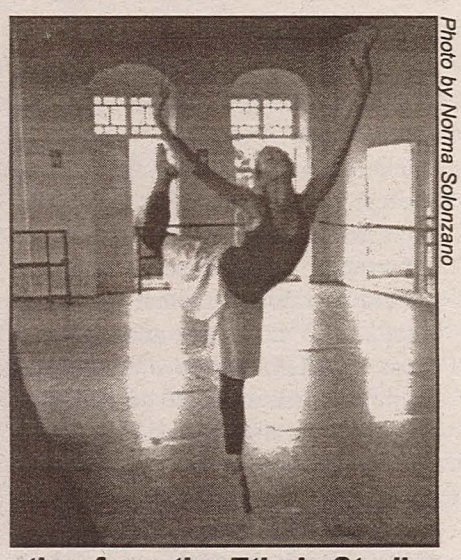


Photo by Norma Solonzano

Photos taken in Cuba in 1996 during a visit by a student delegation from the Ethnic Studies Dept. of San Francisco State as part of a reciprocal exchange with the University of Havana.

Distinguished guests, Dear fellow Cubans:

Our heroic people have struggled for 44 years from this small Caribbean Island just a few miles away from the most formidable imperial power ever known by mankind. In doing so, they have written an unprecedented chapter in history. Never has the world witnessed such an unequal fight.

Some may have believed that the rise of the empire to the status of the sole superpower, with a military and technological might with no balancing pole anywhere in the world, would frighten or dishearten the Cuban people.

Yet, today they have no choice but to watch in amazement the enhanced courage of this valiant people. On a day like today, this glorious international workers' day, which commemorates the death of the five martyrs of Chicago, I declare, on behalf of the one million Cubans gathered here, that we will face up to any threats, we will not yield to any pressures, and that we are prepared to defend our homeland and our Revolution with ideas and with weapons to our last drop of blood.

What is Cuba's sin? What honest person has any reason to attack her?

With their own blood and the weapons seized from the enemy, the Cuban people overthrew a cruel tyranny with 80,000 men under arms, imposed by the U.S. government.

Cuba was the first territory free from imperialist domination in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the only country in the hemisphere, throughout post-colonial history, where the torturers, murders and war criminals that took the lives of tens of thousands of people were exemplarily punished.

All of the country's land was recovered and turned over to the peasants and agricultural workers. The natural resources, industries and basic services were placed in the hands of their only true owner: the Cuban nation.

In less than 72 hours, fighting ceaselessly, day and night, Cuba crushed the Bay of Pigs mercenary invasion organized by a U.S. administration, thereby preventing a direct military intervention by that country and a war of incalculable consequences. The Revolution already had the Rebel Army, over 400,000 weapons and hundreds of thousands of militia members.

In 1962, Cuba confronted with honor and without a single concession the risk of being attacked with dozens of nuclear weapons.

It defeated the dirty war that spread throughout the entire country, at a cost in human lives even greater than that of the war of liberation.

It stoically endured thousands of acts of sabotage and terrorist attacks organized by the U.S. government. It thwarted hundreds of assassination plots against the leaders of the Revolution.

While under a rigorous blockade and economic warfare that have lasted for almost half a century, Cuba was able to eradicate in just one year the illiteracy that still has not been overcome in the course of more than four decades by the rest of the countries of Latin America, or the United States itself.

It has brought free education to 100 percent of the country's children.

It has the highest school retention rate—over 99% between kindergarten and ninth grade—of all of the nations in the hemisphere.

Its elementary school students rank first worldwide in the knowledge of their mother language and mathematics. The country also ranks first worldwide with the highest number of teachers per capita and the lowest number of students per classroom.

All children with physical or mental challenges are enrolled in special schools.

Computer education and the use of audiovisual methods now extend to all of the country's children, adolescents and youth, in both the cities and the countryside.

For the first time in the world, all young people between the ages of 17 and 30 who were previously neither in school nor employed have been given the opportunity to resume their studies while receiving an allowance. All citizens have the possibility of undertaking studies that will take them from kindergarten to a doctoral degree without spending a penny.

Today, the country has 30 university graduates, intellectuals and professional artists for every one there was before the Revolution [in January 1959]. The average Cuban citizen today has at the very least a ninth-grade level of education. Not even functional illiteracy exists in Cuba.

There are schools for the training of artists and art instructors throughout all of the country's provinces, where over 20,000 young people are currently studying and developing their talent and vocation. Tens of thousands more are doing the same at vocational schools, and many of these then go on to undertake professional studies.

University campuses are progressively spreading to all of the country's municipalities. Never in any other part of the world has such a colossal educational and cultural revolution taken place as this that will turn Cuba, by far, into the country with the highest degree of knowledge and culture in the world, faithful to Martí's profound conviction that "no freedom is possible without culture."

Infant mortality has been reduced from 60 per 1000 live births to a rate that fluctuates between 6 and 6.5, which is the lowest in the hemisphere, from the United States to Argentina.

Life expectancy has increased by 15 years. Infectious and contagious diseases like polio, malaria, neonatal tetanus, diphtheria, measles, rubella, mumps, whooping cough and dengue have been eradicated; others like tetanus, meningococcal meningitis, hepatitis B, leprosy, hemophilus meningitis and tuberculosis are fully controlled.

Today, in our country, people die of the same causes as in the most highly developed countries; cardiovascular diseases, cancer, accidents and others, but with a much lower incidence.

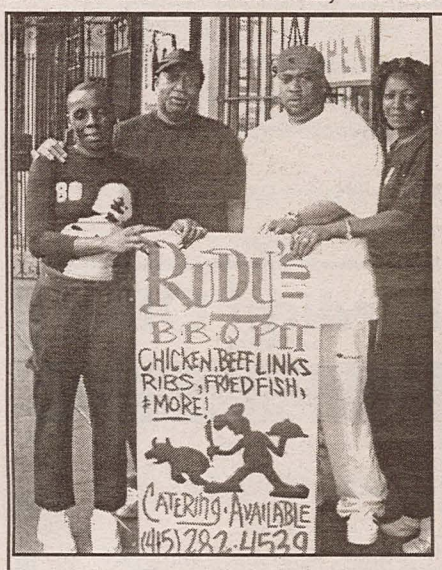
A profound revolution is underway to bring medical services closer to the population, in order to facilitate access to health care centers, save lives and alleviate suffering. In-depth research is being carried out to break the chain, mitigate or reduce to a minimum the problems that result from genetic, prenatal or childbirth-related causes.

Cuba is today the country with the highest number of doctors per capita in the world, with almost twice as many as those that follow closer. Our scientific centers are working relentlessly to find preventive or therapeutic solutions for the most serious diseases. Cubans will have the best health-care system in the world, and will continue to receive all services absolutely free of charge.

In Cuba, 85 percent of the people own their homes and they pay no property taxes on them whatsoever. The remaining 15 percent pay a wholly symbolic rent, which is only 10 percent of their salary.

Illegal drug use involves a negligible percentage of the population, and

Continued on page 11



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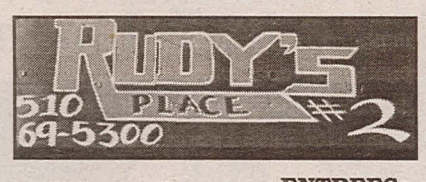

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Letters to the Editor

San Francisco ACT UP!

Dear Editor,

We have received a large amount of mail in response to our ads that have been running in *The Commemorator.* We would like to address some of the questions expressed in the letters and to take this opportunity to find some common ground in the debate that surrounds whether HIV is the sole and sufficient cause of AIDS. All too often debates begin with issues people do not agree on; we would like to start this discussion with four areas, most people involved in HIV and AIDS awareness can agree: the drugs used to treat AIDS are toxic, the HIV test is notoriously unreliable, AIDS statistics in San Francisco are going down in all categories and there is too much money going to salaries, while services are being cut. We do not propose to limit the debate and discussion to these four areas and welcome continued input. Indeed, the purpose of our ad campaign is to raise these issues for discussion especially at a time when serious questions must be asked.

Now that the media-driven hype surrounding protease inhibitors, the latest AIDS drug regimen has given way to the truth of very debilitating drug side effects, people diagnosed with HIV have seriously begun community discussions of drug toxicity. The side effects are serious and could only compromise the health of immune-suppressed people. In no way should these AIDS drugs have been promoted in the late 1990's as a cure. Denying or downplaying the deadly side effects of these drugs serves no purpose other than inflating the already fat pocketbooks of the mega-pharmaceutical companies. The easily manipulated, irrelevant animal and human clinical trials of the drug approval process have resulted in a number of toxic drugs released by the pharmaceuticals with FDA approval. Drugs for diabetes, weight loss, and anti-histamines have all been pulled from retail shelves because they posed a serious threat to the public. In dealing with AIDS, people are often unable to distinguish between the side effects of the drugs and the symptoms of the disease.

Before anyone decides or is coerced into taking the drugs, they must first test positive on what is commonly called the HIV test. However, there is no actual test for HIV or AIDS. The tests commonly used, the Western Blot and the ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay), test for proteins. The proteins are supposed to be signs of antibodies, and the antibodies are supposed to be signs of a virus. We demand to know why there has not been a test to detect the actual

Continued on Page 18

A Rebuttal to Kate Coleman's *San Francisco Chronicle* Article

June 15, 2003

Dear Editor,

As a white Southerner who knew personally a number of the Black Panther Party founders during the first of four years of the Panther's existence, I am thoroughly disgusted with Kate Coleman's June 15, 2003 article, "The real Black Panthers were a Bunch of thugs." I believe the article shows a terrible ignorance and marinated ideological bias on her part.

She dwelled upon the time period which began after government police agents had infiltrated the Party and provided some of its leading members with free drugs and other bribes. This period began with the many arrests and murders of Panthers throughout the country, and of its general decline.

Diluting the truth is not acceptable to me. Therefore, a brief look at the first few years of the Black Panther Party and the Black community is necessary.

Nothing that happened in the early years of Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, and other founders of the Panther Party in their struggle for civil rights and human dignity surprised them because they had studied Frantz Fanon. Fanon pointed out in his *Wretched of the Earth* that "For centuries the capitalists have behaved in the underdeveloped world like nothing more than war criminals," and were not American Blacks a colonized people living on land stolen from another colonized people? Did not Fanon write that "All the native has seen in his country is that they can freely arrest him, beat him, starve him; and no professor of ethics, no priest has ever come to be beaten in his place, nor to share their bread with him?"

The struggle against racism has been fought largely on the rules established by the racists in power.

The early Panther leaders tried to break out of this mold. However,

Continued on page 19

How Do We Fight It?

August 12, 2003

Dear Editor,

Is there a conspiracy? How could prisons be on the stock market? Wise people don't invest in business unless they have a product. If people are investing in cells they know they are going to be filled. And who is filling the jails? Is it true that prisoners' deaths by the use of excessive force in prisons have risen since the 90's? How do we fight it? Is this real? Why are prisoners being victimized like this? There are organizations like "Mourning Mothers," and others, like "Family Members and Concerned Citizens" asking these questions. Yes, there is a conspiracy. And it's unfortunate that those who would speak out have to be labeled as something other than what we really are.

I have enclosed an article I've written entitled: "Caught Up In A Vicious Cycle." Even if you edit it I hope you will consider publishing the article in your publication.

I read your new publication and I find those articles featured therein very moving, informative and very educational…As a publisher/writer your views are more in tune with the poor and misfortunate.

The issues mentioned in my article about my arrest and trial is of public record, and can be obtained by request. Those issues mentioned in my article concerning the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, prison official and prison guards. I have been well documented through the prisons grievance system. The lawsuit in Greene County, State Court: *Kenneth Pate v. F. K. Franks.* A.D. No. 558-2000.

Now it's up to you, sir to either turn a blind eye — as so many others have done — or do the right thing and assist me in breaking this vicious cycle.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

P.S. Should you publish my article, please send me a copy of your publication with the article in it.

Thank you! Please send me a subscription to your publication.

Mr. Kenneth Pate BW-6320
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Editor's note: *See page 3 and lead story.*

Greetings and Solidarity

Dear Editor,

I was fortunate to receive a copy of your newspaper, with a wonderful article about Mumia Abu-Jamal and Huey Newton. Since I'm also a captive of this penal-industrial complex, your paper has increased my historical and political consciousness. I found its radical/revolutionary analysis relevant to our current situation. I would like to subscribe or be added to your mailing list. If possible, I could benefit from back issues. Right now, I have no funds but would welcome any reading materials available.

Thanks.

Yours in struggle,
J. Adam p26138 Unit M-1/119L
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Captive Audience

Urban Removal: Paving the Way for the Modern Police State

(Part Four)

By John Donner

In the prequel to this article "Urban Removal: Paving the Way for the Modern Police State," we wrote:

Substantial sums of government funding (co-optation money) is available within the context of so-called social engineering to recruit and enlist certain community elements as pseudo-police agencies, intelligence gathering, and tactical-operational modern community police state assets.

So-called "community oriented policing," is an example of government, i.e., ruling-class, funded so-called social engineering to recruit and enlist certain community elements as pseudo-police agencies who, under multi-national monopoly capitalism, form a witting and in some cases unwitting, "Fifth Column," aiding the intelligence gathering and tactical operations of the neo-fascist, modern police state. The following excerpted provisions of Section 3796dd of Title 42 of the United States Code leave little doubt that so-called "community oriented policing," is a euphemism for developing networks of actual and potential, knowing and unknowing, police and ruling-class, informants and agents through the direct and indirect use of government grant money.

The Attorney General may make grants … to expand and improve cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies and members of the community to address crime and disorder problems, and otherwise to enhance public safety [42 U.S.C. sec. 3796dd(a)]

Grants made under subsection (a) of this section may include programs, projects, and other activities to … develop and implement innovative programs to permit members of the community to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in the prevention of crime in the community, such as a citizen's police academy [42 U.S.C. sec. 3796dd(d)(5)]

"Community oriented policing" together with every other directly or indirectly government-sponsored so-called community development program, affecting the American under-classes, is a spoke in a wheel of ruling-class counterrevolutionary policy. The hub of this counterrevolutionary wheel, each so-called community development program spoke is attached to, is the patently false idea that empowerment of the oppressed and exploited American under-classes can be actualized based on collaborating with the functionaries and armed centurions of our over-class oppressors and exploiters who subject us on a daily basis to material conditions equaling or bordering on modern genocide.

An excellent example of the material conditions to which we refer may be found in the national, massive draconian cuts in every aspect of the social safety net on which millions depend for survival and for whom such cuts is literally a death sentence. These draconian cuts are only part of the social costs of diverting money away from America's rapidly unraveling social safety net, and into enforcing America's ruling-class' policy of global fascist war, both unilaterally and by coalition. Intensification of the current U.S. ruling-class led policy of multi-national monopoly capitalist war will predictably accelerate the mass murder, maiming, and making of millions more refugees and orphans within the ranks of the world's under-classes. All of this merely underscores the specter of accelerated under-class suffering and death in America and abroad, as a fait accompli [foregone conclusion] inherent within the global-fascist, modern police state policy of America's ruling-class elite.

The directly or indirectly ruling-class funded, poverty-pimp's current code-word, and concept of choice is "Empowerment." The idea of under-class "empowerment" based on collaboration with our over-class oppressors and exploiters is ludicrous.

Under-class empowerment under the dictatorship of multi-national monopoly capitalism is just another false rationale that poverty pimps use to justify accepting ruling-class blood money in the name of the oppressed and exploited American under-classes. It is on the basis of ruling-class, blood money, police, media and other forms of support that the professional poverty pimps among us, (not the sincere in heart whom they deceive), rise above the oppressed and exploited masses, (if only temporarily), instead of rising with us through real revolutionary under-class struggle.

Direct and indirect ruling-class funding, blood money, finds its genesis in the torture, suffering, anguish, vexation and preventable premature death of the global working-class, poor, who are being ruthlessly exploited and brutally oppressed under U.S. led multi-national monopoly capitalism as you read these words.

Too many opportunists are willing to not just sell out but to also buy in to the counterrevolutionary program of our ruling-class oppressors, for a bigger bite of the quivering flesh of their own class. Blood bribe money is used to fund false, band-aid solutions that tend to exhaust our revolutionary potential by leading the masses on wild goose chases, which purposely never address our real problem, the fact that it is the multi-national, monopoly capitalist social economic system of the ruling-class that is the primary cause of our problem.

Blood money bribery in the form of government and other ruling-class funding is a central piece of the oppressor's machinery for co-opting both the material issues and potential leaders that arise from the ebb and flow of the class struggle itself. The programs formed on the basis of ruling-class blood money bribery are diversionary insofar as they keep the oppressed masses looking the other way, embroiled in programs, that are not designed to work and can't work, while the over-class continues to concentrate more and more wealth into fewer and fewer of its own bloody, monopolistic hands, thereby also, concentrating and consolidating the political power of the over-class consistent with the golden rule, that the social class who owns the gold makes the rules. The rules systematically subject the under-classes to conditions that equal or border on genocide, and apply between the cradle and the grave, unless overruled by under-class social revolution.

It is of life and death importance to grasp the essential fact that blood money bribes (in the form of ruling-class direct and indirect funding) finances a neo-colonial bureaucracy that becomes the (recognized, bought and paid for by the ruling-class)

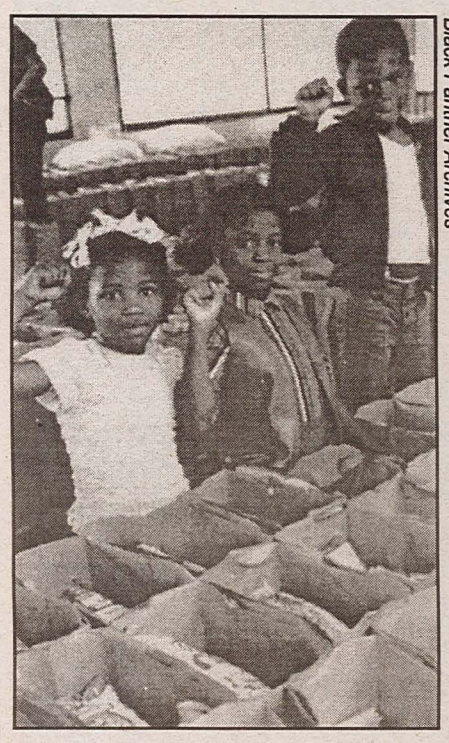
Continued on page 13

Black Panther Archives

Throughout the late 1960s and 1970s the Black Panther Party won the hearts and minds of masses of people through meeting their day-to-day needs, organizing to end exploitation and oppression.

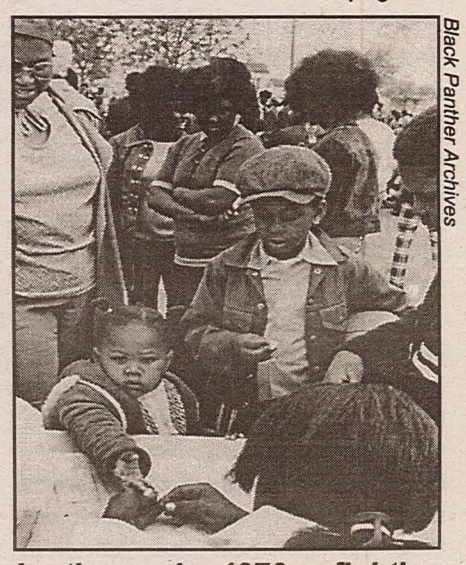
Black Panther Archives

BPP Chairman Bobby Seale demonstrates to organizers how to distribute bags of food to encourage the low-income black community to the polls to vote for the BPP platform.



Black Panther Archives

Children play role in the unification of the minds and hearts of the people.



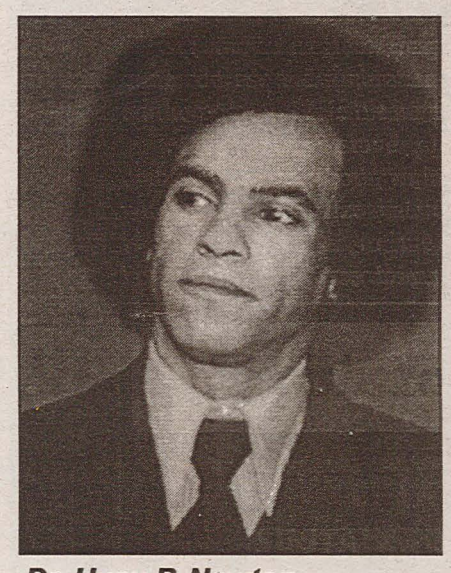
Black Panther Archives

In the early 1970s, fighting the deadly disease sickle cell anemia was a hallmark.

Archives

RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Huey's Corner



Dr. Huey P. Newton

Editor's Note: The following article is a continuation from May 2003, taken from the 1977 Ph.D. Dissertation on the History of Consciousness by Dr. Huey P. Newton. The thesis was published by the Huey P. Newton Foundation in a book called The War Against the Panthers: A study of Oppression in America *(Writer and Readers, 1999), and is available at your local bookstore.*

The following depicts the FBI's illegal activities in their unending counterintelligence activities against Dr. Huey P. Newton.

When Newton's conviction for allegedly shooting a policeman was reversed in 1970, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover immediately requested official authorization from Attorney General John Mitchell for "a microphone surveillance and a telephone surveillance at apartment 25A, 1200 Lakeshore, Oakland"[55] — Huey Newton's new residence. Hoover considered it "likely that high-level party-conferences will be held at this location," and he reminded Mitchell "that existing telephone surveillance on certain Black Panther officers, all of which have been authorized by you, have provided extremely valuable information on Black Panther Party involvement in foreign matters and plans for violent acts against top officials of this country and foreign diplomatic personnel."[56] (The ending clause, clumsily tacked on the sentence, was the requisite "national security" justification for covert action.) Hoover's request concluded with the observation that "trespass will be involved with respect to the microphone surveillance."[57]

But the FBI was not content with surveillance. On November 24, the San Francisco FBI field office proposed an additional COINTELPRO operation concerning Newton's new apartment. The field office proposed a media campaign which would characterize the apartment as a "luxurious lakeshore" penthouse, far more elegant than "the ghetto-like BPP 'pads' and community centers"utilized by the party.[59] However the field officer agreed to refrain "presently" from leaking "this information to cooperative news sources" because of a "pending special investigative technique [i.e., the 'bug' and wiretaps]."[60]

Once the installation of the surveillance devices had been completed, the FBI gave the "plush penthouse" story to one of the Bureau's key media "assets," reporter Ed Montgomery of the *San Francisco Examiner*.[61] Shortly, Montgomery's FBI-furnished article was featured on the front page of the *Examiner*. Pleased with this quick success, the San Francisco field office mailed copies of the feature article, anonymously, to "all BPP offices across the United States and to three BPP contacts in Europe."[62] Additional copies were mailed to newspaper editors in all cities where the BPP was active.

To bolster the innuendos of lavish living and misuse of party funds, the FBI sent a fictitious letter from a national Black Panther Party officer to Party chapters in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C.

To bolster the innuendos of lavish living and misuse of party funds, the FBI sent a fictitious letter from a national Black Panther Party officer to Party chapters in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. The message, mailed from Oakland, read in part:

Comrades:

Too many of your leaders have now turned this moment into something to line their own pockets and have little regard for the man on the street selling "The Black Panther." Ask the members of your chapter coming to the national where the Comrade Commander and the Chief of Staff live. Huey Newton lives miles from another nigger and you'll never find him in National Headquarters. If you're lucky you can see him buying drinks for white freaks in Oakland supper clubs.[63]

Black Panther Archives

Huey P. Newton Black Panther leader meets with Chou En-lai (Premier of China) in 1971.

In addition, FBI Headquarters formulated a COINTELPRO plan to "embarrass BPP leader Huey Newton through use of a fictitious bank account, indicating misappropriations of BPP funds."[64] This plan required that:

A fictitious bank account record be created in the name of HUEY P. NEWTON through an appropriate bank which will cooperate with the Bureau confidentially. A photostat of a false ledger card could be prepared and mailed to national headquarters anonymously along with an appropriate letter condemning NEWTON. The account should show regular sizeable deposits over a period of several years and have a sizeable balance existing .[65]

Beginning April 1, 1971 and for months thereafter, the FBI paid "$540 per month . . . for the rental of apartment 25B, 1200 Lakeshore, Oakland, California."[66] In this apartment, adjacent to the one in which Newton was living, the FBI placed an undercover agent with instructions to keep Newton under physical surveillance, as well as monitoring the electronic eavesdropping devices. Subsequently, hardly a day passed when Newton

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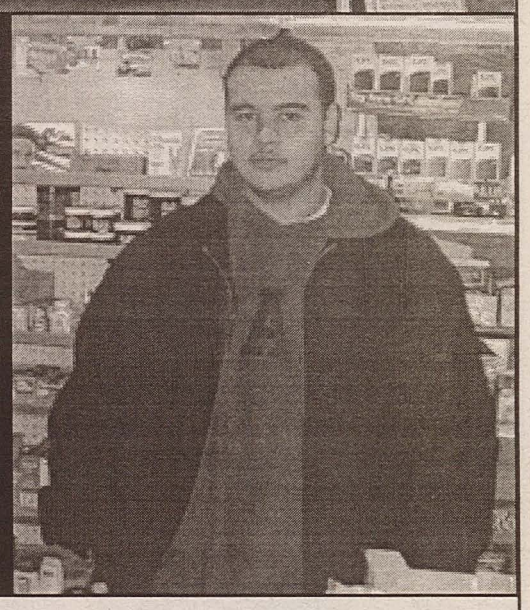

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INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS BRIEFS

Navajo Facts

The nation's single largest group of Native Americans has grown larger, says the US census. From 1990 to 1999, the Navajo nations gained 30,000 new births, and now total 180,102. While their population has risen, their economic condition has not. The poverty rate for Navajo people is 29.5%, while for whites it is 13.%.

- 52% of Navajo-occupied housing units lack complete plumbing for exclusive use.
- 54% of Navajo-occupied housing units burn wood for heating.
- 77% of Navajo-occupied housing units have no telephone.
- 36% of Navajo persons 25+ years old have less than a 9th grade education.
- 41% of Navajo persons 25+ years old are high school graduates.
- 3% of Navajo persons 25+ years old have completed 4 or more years of college.

Time Running Out and No Safety-Net

"More than 100,000 Californians will be cut off from welfare rolls by year's end though not because most of them didn't work," according to Zachary Colle, *San Francisco Chronicle,* Washington Bureau. "In passing the landmark welfare reforms of 1996, Congress set a strict, five-year lifetime limit on cash payments from the federal government, arguing that the loss of benefits was the only way to motivate poor parents to get jobs. "What jobs?" stated Harry Johnson, West Oakland former foundry-worker for 24 years before his company closed. "The jobs simply do not exist."

In the meantime, 1 million black children under the age of 18 are living in extreme poverty since 2000, according to a study by the Children Defense Fund. Despite how the study shows that overall poverty is down in this country, Latino children in extreme poverty numbered at 733,000, an increase of 13 percent from 1999. The number of white children in this group comes to 1.8 million, which is up 2 percent since 1999.

High Tech, Low Security

"Forrester Research predicts that over the next 15 years, 3.3 million American jobs — representing $136 billion in wages — will move offshore. India, where the technology industry is booming, is leading the way, with Russia, China and the Philippines also picking up jobs. An Indian software developer right out of college might make around $6,000 a year for a job that typically has paid $50,000 to $60,000 a year in the U.S."

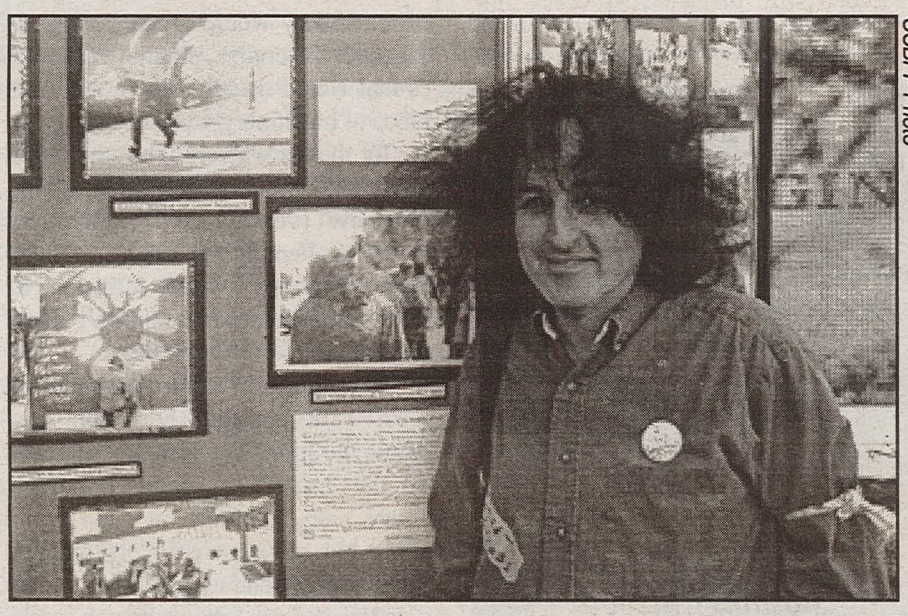
(Taken from the Oakland Tribune *Sunday, August 31, 2003)*

Berkeley Anti-War Movement Remembrance

BERKELEY — Thirty-four years later, a wide spectrum of people, from members from the Berkeley homeless community to Congresswoman Barbara Lee, paid respect to this 34th anniversary of the founding of the People's Park near the south campus of the University of California. The participants of the event pointed out the importance for the People's Park to continue the struggle for peace instead of wars of aggression. Speaker after speaker spoke to the sacrifice of the activists James Rector, David Nadel and Rosebud over the decades and warmongering of the Bush cabal, supported by the University of California, Berkeley's Board of Regents, just as board members supported the Vietnam war the 1960s.

CCBPP Photo

Congresswoman Barbara Lee, initially the only US representative to oppose the Bush administration's hawkish war policy, was the featured speaker at the 34th anniversary celebration of People's Park at Berkeley, California.



CCBPP Photo

Harold Adler, activist photojournalist, whose photographs documented the People's Park and anti-war protests during the confrontations in Berkeley.

"I would like for everyone to take a pause for 1 minute of silence to remember all the fallen activists who paid the ultimate price and the many others who never gave up the fight for peace," stated a local homeless activist.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee pointed out that People's Park has always represented peace, and a spirit of unity with the community and the students, the opposite of what the current President and the oil companies represent.

In April 1969, after the murder of James Rector, a delegation of Panthers, led by Sacramento captain Charles Bronson, was dispatched to People's Park to lend support to the demonstrators. "Panther members helped with, clearing the asphalt to plant the peace garden," stated David Hilliard, former Black Panther Party leader.

Berkeley Peoples Park Archives

In February of 1968, residents of the land that would later be known as People's Park were given notice of eviction and their homes were demolished. Building on the land was delayed due to a lack of University funds. On April 13, 1969, at a meeting of local residents and store owners, Mike Delacour proposed the idea of a communally created and maintained park in the area of the vacant lot.

After reading an article in the *Berkeley Barb* supporting the idea, several hundred people turned out on April 20 to help bring the dream to fruition.

Local merchants and residents contributed equipment as well as provided donations to rent heavy duty machinery. On April 30, Executive Vice Chancellor Cheit met with representatives of the park and suggested that "creative control" over a quarter of the park be given to the people of the community who had begun developing it. The story of the struggle for People's Park is one of the people of Berkeley and students' from the University of California of the late sixties. During the 1960s, Berkeley had become well known as a place where those involved in free speech, peace movement, and counterculture could flourish. A peaceful demonstration led to Governor Ronald Reagan calling out the California National Guards who murdered James Rector who was shot and killed on a nearby rooftop. The people responded by building a peace garden. Men and women joined up in "fire brigade," style lines, to break up and remove the asphalt that covered the land... This ground breaking activity was performed more than once, as the struggle for People's Park continued, and was covered in asphalt more than once... The laborers being a crowd of mixed students, street people, and Berkeley citizens, as always. Given the amount of people working on the project, the park was cleared of asphalt and ready for gardening by the end of the day, April 13, 1969.

All Power to the People!

CALL TO ACTION

Now is the time to organize!
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Volunteers needed for building a strong grassroots movement to change the economic and social depression in our communities.
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Oakland, CA 94609

Photo by People Park Archives

April 1969, men and women labored together, cleared the parking lot of asphalt and began building a peace garden both in response to the death of James Rector, who was murdered by National Guards, and to end the war in Vietnam.

Private Profits vs. Public Need

Continued from page 1

California's academic achievement in the grades K-12 has gone from being among the top 5 in the nation to being within the bottom 10.

The recent $100 million takeover of the Oakland Unified School District is merely a continuation of the systemic assault on working class families with children in public school throughout the country. California's Proposition 13, the prison industrial complex, welfare to workfare, enterprise/empowerment zones, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the current war in Iraq have all made their mark of the beast on working class and poor people world wide.

Proposition 13 and California Public Education

California Proposition 13, written in 1978 by landlord attorneys, put a cap on property taxes and shifted tax money from local governments to the state, thus hampering local government's ability to adequately care for its citizens.

CCBPP Photo

Sheila Quintana, President of the Oakland Education Association (OEA), joined the protesting students and teachers, in the rain, at the California state capitol.

By cutting revenues, Prop 13 crippled California public education, as well as other services. School funding was cut in half overnight.

According to California Assembly member Jackie Goldberg, "Commercial property owners reaped 40 percent of the savings, while over a third of the benefits from the property tax reduction went back to the state and federal governments in the form of higher income taxes."

The state got all the money and made all the rules, and local communities just had to make do, often competing with each other for funding, and operating within strict spending restrictions.

Welfare to Workfare

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of August, 1996, authored by the Republicans, and signed by President Bill Clinton, has clearly been proven to be a snake-oil remedy to the economy. One component of this Act has a lifetime limit of five years that an adult single individual or head of the family can be on welfare. This means even if a recipient could not find a job and the time limit is reached, welfare is over for that family — men, women, and children. States have the option to limit it down to two years. "Any legal job is better than subsidized idleness," stated then California Governor Pete Wilson, offering contracts for private companies such as Electronic Data Systems to run portions of welfare at a profit.

"Welfare reform is an insult," Clarence Row, president of Cocoa, Florida's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and volunteer member of the Brevard County Workfare Development Board told *The Commemorator* in May of 1997.

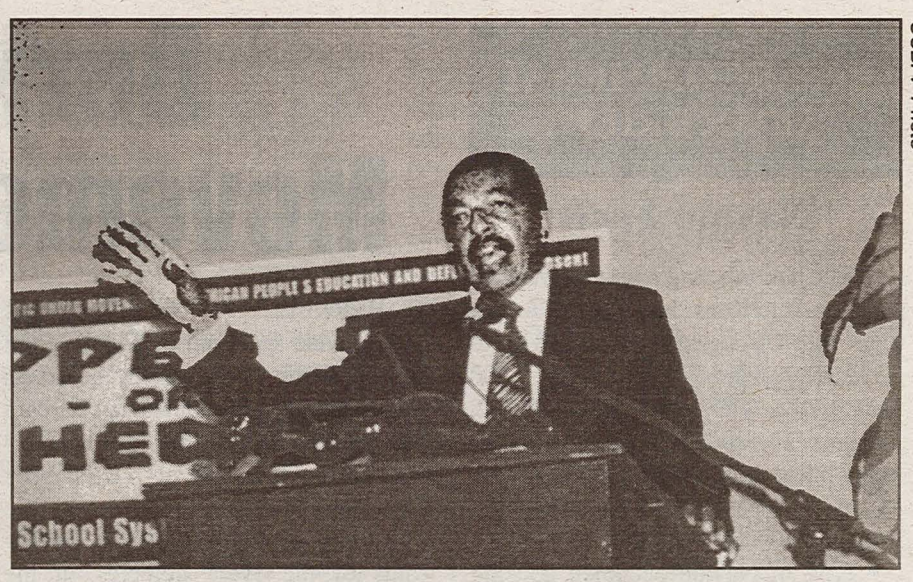
Oakland Tribune's front page story on August 22, read, "After 7 years, welfare to work hasn't yet worked, study says." The article states, "New national research shows that fewer current and former welfare recipients are working, findings that could call the reform effort's success into question."

Enterprise Zones

In 1988 Enterprise Zones (EZ) were installed in Oakland, California. The media sold it to the public as a means to create more jobs within "distressed areas." Businesses within designated enterprise zones would receive waivers of sales taxes for new machinery purchased. For example sales tax of 8% on a $1 million piece of machinery would mean savings of $80,000. Of course, smaller businesses that would usually purchase a used piece of machinery would not be eligible for the tax waivers. The stipulation that the tax break only applied to buying new (versus used) machinery served to benefit the largest of business concerns while eliminating smaller businesses that couldn't afford to purchase new equipment.

In addition, companies would receive tax credits for each new employee hired but only up to 150% of the minimum wage. Anything above 150% of minimum wage would come out of the employers' profits. The company had no incentive to provide living wage jobs and much incentive to lay workers off and bring in new employees in order to generate the tax credits for each new low-paid employee.

The Enterprise Zone scheme provided a built-in mechanism for businesses to undercut their competition, primarily through reduced labor costs. Family toy stores in the Piedmont area of Oakland and in San Francisco were driven out of business by competition from Toys-R-Us, which was located within the San Francisco EZ.



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Randoph Ward, state overseer recently appointed by FCMAT (a corporate-state agency) to run the Oakland school system, which was formerly administered by the Oakland Unified School District, a public agency.

Prison Increases Backed by False Crime and False Cost-Savings Figures

The government's case for more prisons, begun in 1992 under then United States Attorney General William Barr is, according to the Commission, a classic case of official deception. The United States Justice Department published a document in 1992 entitled "The Case for More Incarceration." This document relied on a 1987 government study which claimed that incarcerating one inmate would save society $430,000 per year, a 17 to one return rate on prison investment. A return rate of 17 to one is literally unheard of in the private sector, much less the public sector. This incredible claim thus drew close expert scrutiny. It was soon revealed that the alleged $430,000 savings to society per person incarcerated was based on the even more incredible assumption that each prisoner, if not incarcerated, would commit 187 street crimes per year, at a cost to the victim of $2,300 in

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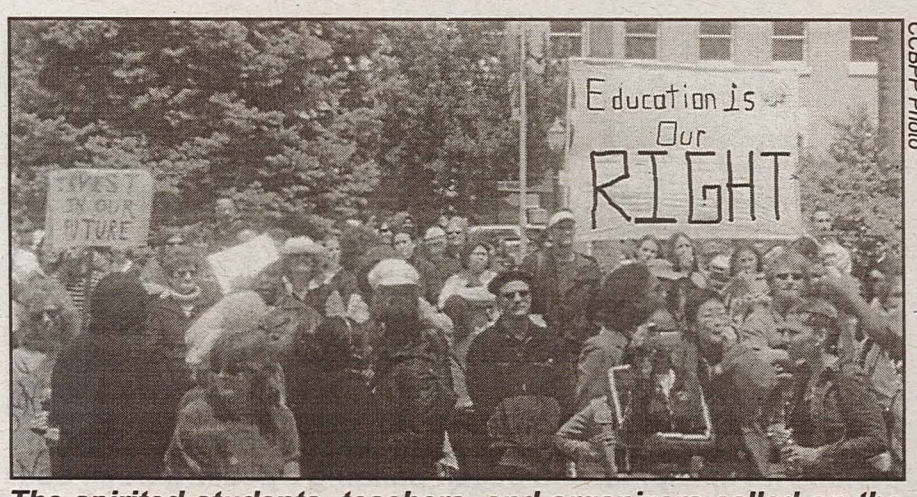

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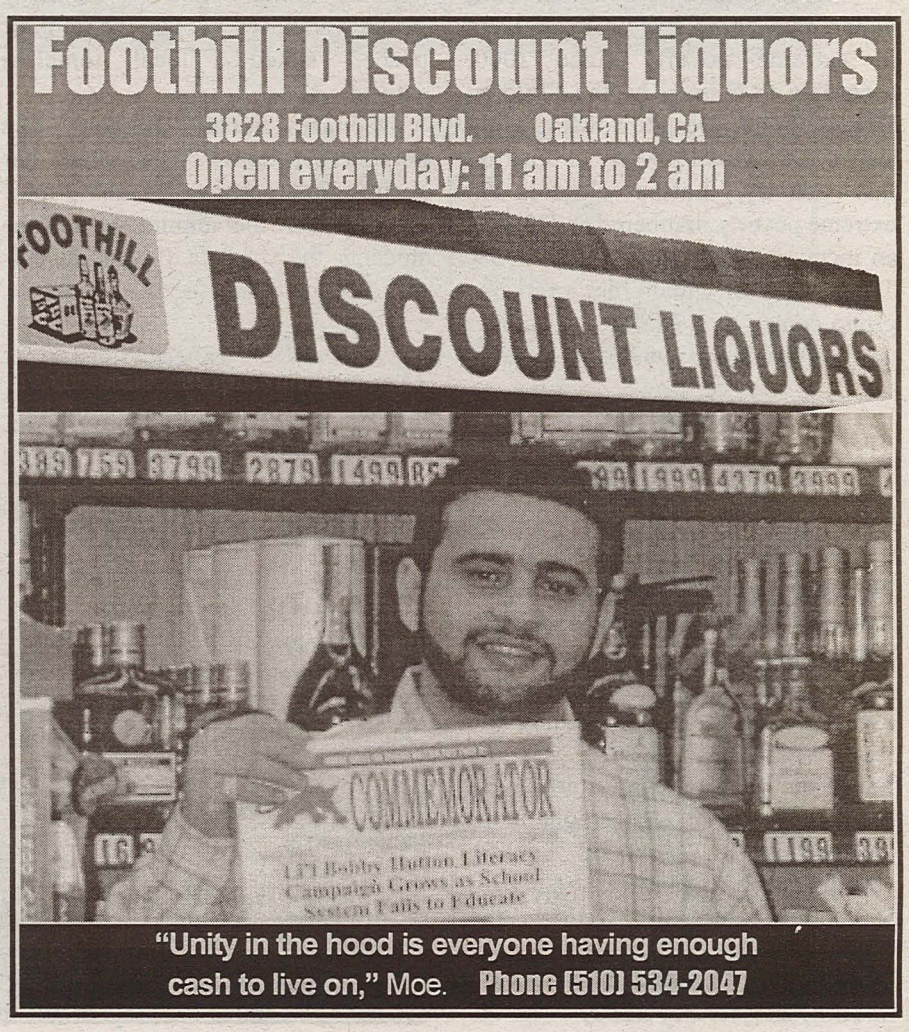
The spirited students, teachers, and organizers called on the politicians to shape up or ship out at the May 8, 2003 rally.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Cuba Confronts New World Order

Continued from page 5

is being resolutely combated. Lottery and other forms of gambling have been banned since the first years of the Revolution to ensure that no one pins their hopes of progress on luck.

"No Cult of Personality ... No Death Squads"

There is no commercial advertising on Cuban television and radio or in our printed publications. Instead, these feature public service announcements concerning health, education, culture, physical education, sports, recreation, environmental protection and the fight against drugs, accidents and other social problems. Our media educate, they do not poison or alienate. They do not worship or exalt the values of decadent consumer societies.

There is no cult of personality around any living revolutionary, in the form of statues, official photographs, or the names of streets or institutions. The leaders of this country are human beings, not gods.

In our country there are no paramilitary forces or death squads, nor has violence ever been used against the people; there are no extra judicial executions or torture. The people have always massively supported the activities of the Revolution. This rally today is proof of that.

Light years separate our society from what has prevailed until today in the rest of the world. We cultivate brotherhood and solidarity among individuals and peoples both in the country and abroad.

The new generations and the entire people are being educated about the need to protect the environment. The media are used to build environmental awareness. Our country steadfastly defends its cultural identity, assimilating the best of other cultures while resolutely combating everything that distorts, alienates and degrades.

The development of wholesome, non-professional sports has raised our people to the highest ranks worldwide in medals and honors.

Scientific research, at the service of our people and all humanity, has increased several hundredfold. As a result of these efforts, important medications are saving lives in Cuba and other countries.

Cuba has never undertaken research or development of a single biological weapon, because this would be in total contradiction with the principles and philosophy underlying the education of our scientific personnel, past and present.

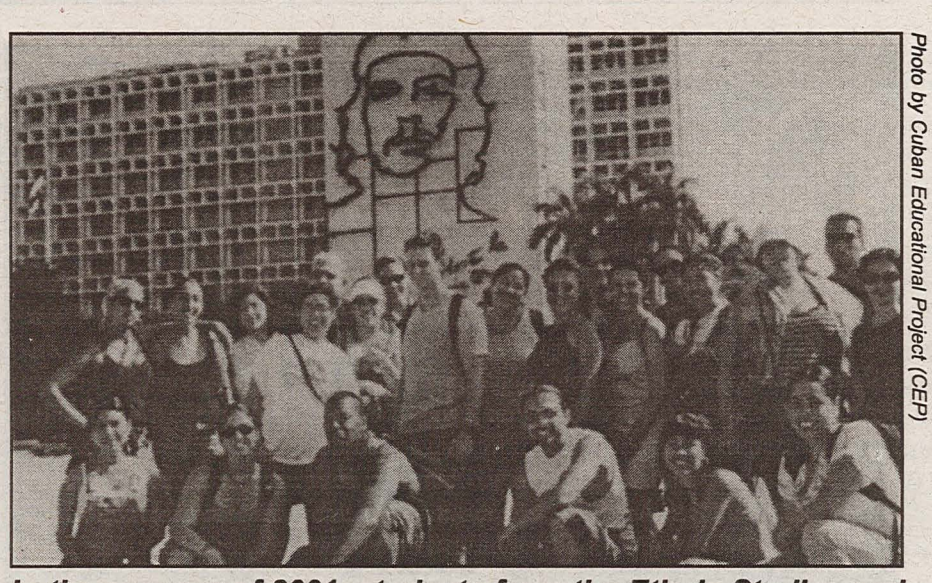

Photo by Cuban Educational Project (CEP)

In the summer of 2001, students from the Ethnic Studies and La Raza Studies departments at San Francisco State University visited Cuba as part of the Cuba Educational Project (CEP) .

Watchword is International Solidarity

In no other people has the spirit of international solidarity become so deeply rooted.

Our country supported the Algerian patriots in their struggle against French colonialism, at the costs of damaging political and economic relations with such an important European country as France. We sent weapons and troops to defend Algeria from Moroccan expansionism, when the king of this country sought to take control of the iron mines of Gara Djebilet, near the city of Tindouf, in southwest Algeria.

At the request of the Arab nation of Syria, a full tank brigade stood guard between 1973 and 1975 alongside the Golan Heights, when this territory was unjustly seized from that country.

The leader of the Republic of Congo when it first achieved independence, Patrice Lumumba, who was harassed from abroad, received our political support. When he was assassinated by the colonial powers in January of 1961, we lent assistance to his followers.

Four years later, in 1965, Cuban blood was shed in the western region of Lake Tanganyika, where Che Guevara and more than 100 Cuban instructors supported the Congolese rebels who were fighting against white mercenaries in the service of the man supported by the West, Mobutu. Nobody knows in what European banks he put the $40 billion he stole from the people.

The blood of Cuban instructors was shed while training and supporting the combatants of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, who fought under the command of Amilcar Cabral for the liberation of these former Portuguese colonies.

The same was true during the 10 years that Cuba supported Agostinho Neto's MPLA in the struggle for the independence of Angola. After independence was achieved, and over the course of 15 years, hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteers participated in defending Angola from the attacks of racist South African troops that in complicity with the United States, and using dirty war tactics, planted millions of mines, wiped out entire villages and murdered more than half a million Angolan men, women and children.

At Cuito Cuanavale and on the Namibian border, to the southwest of Angola, Angolan and Namibian forces, together with 40,000 Cuban troops, dealt the final blow to the South African troops. This resulted in the immediate liberation of Namibia and speeded up the end of apartheid by perhaps 20 to 25 years. At the time, the South Africans had seven nuclear warheads that Israel had supplied to them or helped them to produce, with the full knowledge and complicity of the U.S. government.

Throughout the course of almost 15 years, Cuba had a place of honor in its solidarity with the heroic people of Viet Nam, caught up in a barbaric and brutal war with the United States. That war killed four million Vietnamese, in addition to all those left wounded and mutilated, not to mention the fact that, the country was inundated with the chemical compounds that continue to cause incalculable damage. The pretext: Viet Nam, a poor and underdeveloped country located 20,000 kilometers away, constituted a "threat" to the national security of the United States.

Cuban blood was shed together with that of citizens of numerous Latin

Continued to page 22

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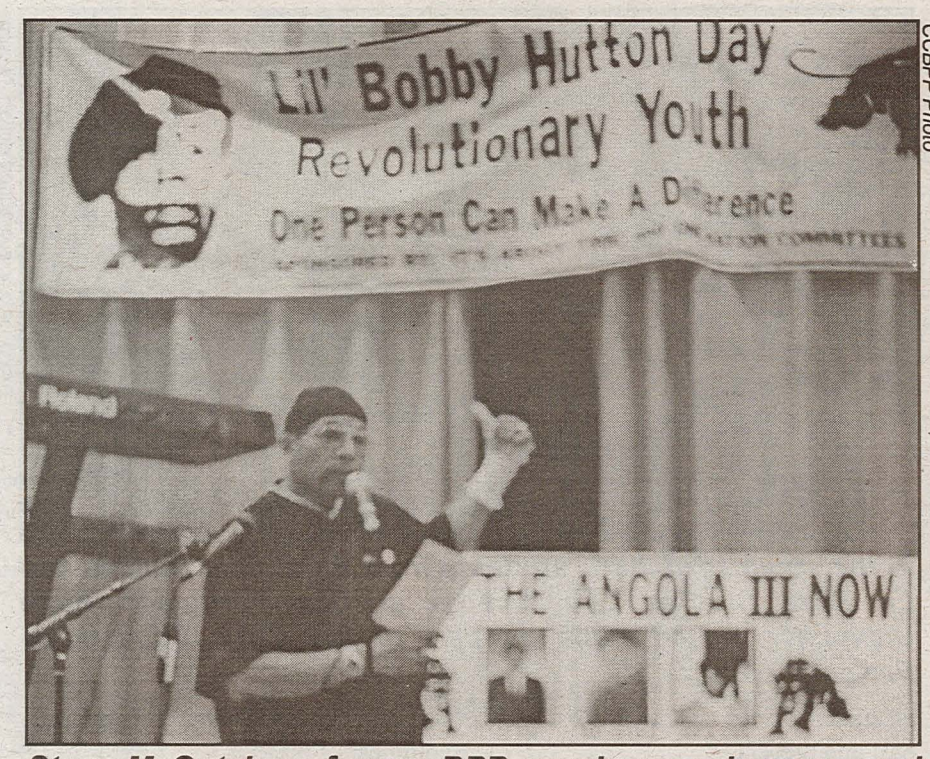

CCBPP Photo

Steve McCutchen, former BPP member, reads poem and speaks about the principles Li'l Bobby stood for.

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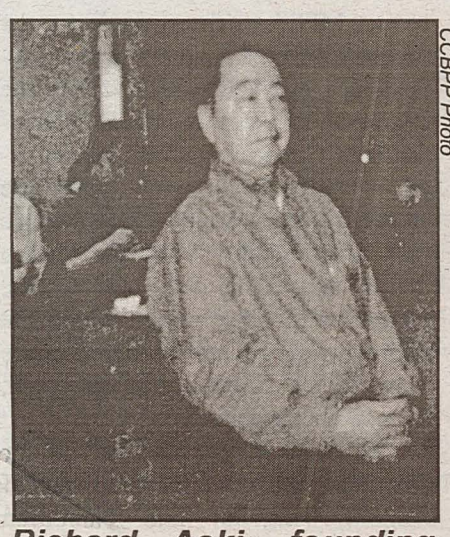
Fred Hampton, Jr. tells story of his life, the political assassination of his father 34 years ago (by the Chicago Police Deptartment's Red Squad) and the conditions in US prisons. He explains the urgency of organizing to end government repression.



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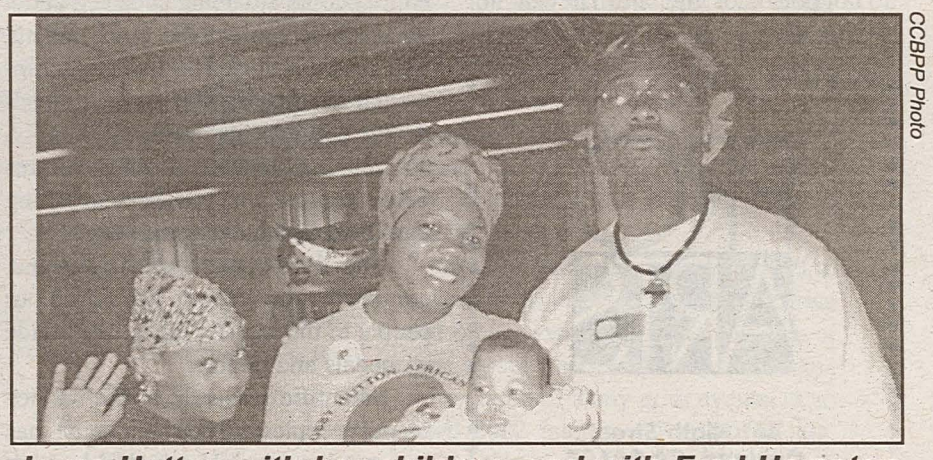
Richard Aoki, founding member of the Black Panther Party, commented that Bobby Hutton's role model was Huey P. Newton.

CCBPP Photo

Kathleen Cleaver, former BPP leader and Marlene Krohn CCBPP board member, reunited from college days after many years.



CCBPP Photo

Joyce Hutton with her children, and with Fred Hampton, Jr. for the Bobby Hutton birthday celebration.

CCBPP Photo

Kathleen Cleaver at Li'l Bobby Hutton Birthday ceremony after speaking about the need for continuing the struggle for empowerment and justice.

Li'l Bobby's Birthday

Continued from page 3

Panther Party and speak on today's topics, and celebrate. The atmosphere was spirited and contagious throughout the program.

"This event tied the present, the past and the future together. We are talking about a continuation of the goals and principles that the Black Panther Party began in October 1966," stated Melvin Dickson, CCBPP Chairman. "Our low-income communities today are experiencing the worst of times, yet we are hopeful because us old-timers have connected with the youth and we will fight for our freedom together. The spirit of Li'l Bobby gives me strength to keep on learning how to fight. The government attack on poor people everywhere is a tragedy that only a united front can defeat."

"With the government attack on wages, education, health care, and with the rise of prisons labor and wars, our people are now experiencing the worst kind of degradation, addiction, murder, homicide and genocide, imaginable," Dickson continued.

"That's why the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party is about turning madness and insanity around, promoting principles of all power to the people, the Ten Point Program and Platform."

Frank Kellum, a longtime community and Panther member, led people outside and began engaging the audience in a libation ceremony. "I want everyone to hold the hand of the person next to you and think about our ancestors who have died for the cause for self-determination. Think of Li'l Bobby.... all the courageous leaders who have given their lives for liberation and against oppression and exploitation, on behalf freedom with dignity.

"As I pour the water on this plant, we'll altogether say 'Juche.' Then after you call out the name of someone you'd like to acknowledge who paid the supreme sacrifice for freedom in solidarity with all exploited and oppressed people then everyone else will reply by saying 'Juche.'"

"Li'l Bobby Hutton!"
"Juche."
"Harriet Tubman."
"Juche."
"Huey P. Newton!"
"Juche."
"Malcolm X"
"Juche"
"George Jackson!"
"Juche."
"Reggie Forte."
"Juche."

After the ceremony the audience moved inside the library. Joyce Hutton, the niece of Li'l Bobby along with her two daughters, eleven year-old, Shukura and 5 year-old Temani, performed, by dancing and singing acappella style to a piece by Stevie Wonder, *You Can Feel it All Over*, and brought the audience to its feet.

Then Robert Flanigan, a student with the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign read his poem. "Li'l Bobby fought for his rights. He was a strong Panther. He loved his people and had meetings on the street. He wanted to organize black people on the streets to fight oppression. Li'l Bobby was brave." Flanigan received a strong round of applause for his inspirational words. Sister Odessa read a poem of liberation, backed by violinist, Terika Lewis, playing in the background. This was a powerful and exquisite performance.

"Indian people continue catching hell from the white man's system of oppression and genocide. Young brothers and sisters continue to experience the genocide that this system perpetuates daily, from outright physical attack against our people," stated a brother.

"We have to free all political prisoners, our brothers and sisters. I have to call the situation for what it is. The prison industry complex is too nice; we have to call them concentration camps. Huey P. Newton once said that 'power is the ability to define phenomenon and make it act in a desired manner.'"

William Jennings (Billy X) from It's About Time, showed Black Panther footage on videos as people chowed-down on the food, including the spaghetti prepared by former BPP member Bobby Coleman."The program and coming together was just wonderful," stated Marlene Krohn, CCBPP board member.

All Power to the People

CCBPP Photo

The BPP SAFE program provided a vital service to Oakland working class African-American citizens.

Urban Removal

Continued from Page 7

administration of the neo-colonized so-called modern ghetto. You can identify this native neo-colonial bureaucracy. Its native administrators and directly or indirectly government, i.e., ruling-class, funded so-called programs are highly praised, publicized, positively editorialized and promoted by the master-class, as examples to be followed.

The process whereby the current master-class funded and supported administration of our urban colonized ghettos, under multi-national monopoly capitalism, has been installed, and is being expanded is very similar to the process that unfolded in Africa both during and after physical occupation by the colonial powers. Native administrations subservient to the policies of their colonial financiers and masters were established and kept in place with the money and military forces of the colonial powers. Today this native administration includes community development corporations, other ruling-class funded poverty pimp programs, with "community oriented policing" as an integral component of the military force backing them up.

The role of these subservient native administrations was to help implement policies on behalf of their colonial masters which guaranteed that their societies were structured in such a way that economic resources including land, i.e., real estate, were allocated to maximize the production of wealth for their colonial powers, and populations located, according to their relative roles in maximizing wealth for the colonial powers.

CCBPP Photo

1972, Elaine Brown, BPP leader, meets with board members of Seniors Against a Fearful Environment (SAFE) in Oakland, CA.

The primary mission of the organizational apparatus and bureaucratic poverty-pimp program administration that is established directly or indirectly with ruling-class blood money bribes, in the urban ghettos, created and colonized by multi-national monopoly capitalism, that our communities have become, is to aid in the implementation of master-class social economic policies. The master-class policies to which we refer are those that facilitate structuring our modern colonized ghettos such that the resources including land, i.e., real estate are allocated and populations relocated, according to their relative role in maximizing master-class wealth. An end result of the master-class policies that the poverty-pimp, government funded administration in our urban colonized ghettos, is being paid with ruling-class blood money to help install, is the further concentration and consolidation economic wealth and political power upward in fewer and fewer multi-national monopoly capitalist hands.

This form of multi-national monopoly capitalist social engineering goes by the euphemism of urban renewal today. It is not any legitimate form of urban renewal for America's under-classes, it is really urban removal of lower income people, families, tenants, landlords, businesses and community organizations that refuse to sell out or buy in to the ruling-class program of our oppressors. Multi-national monopoly capitalism views these elements as requiring removal because they stand in the way of multi-national monopoly capitalism re-allocating the economic resources [including real estate] being utilized by lower income people with its transformation from a labor intensive industrial manufacturing society, to a much less labor intensive low-paying domestic service economy, augmented by starvation-wage industrial production in cheap foreign labor markets.

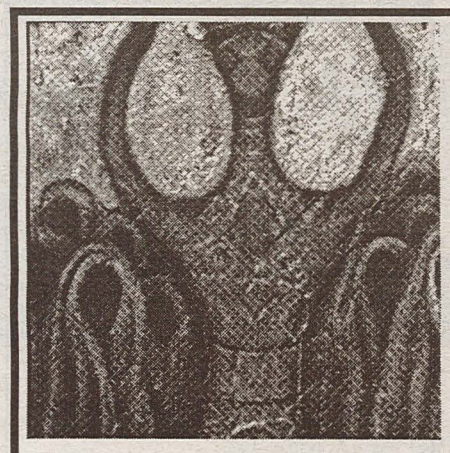
The transformation from labor intensive industrial production to lower wage non-labor intensive service work has created whole strata of tens of millions of people who do not earn enough for access to food, clothing, housing, health care, education, transportation and similar necessities in kind. These tens of millions of people represent a surplus of under-class human beings and their families whom multi-national monopoly capitalism views as non-productive, whose labor is no longer necessary, whose survival the ruling-class is no longer willing or able to finance and who, consequently, are being cut off and denied benefits needed to live.

The ruling-class has two choices. It can take the staggeringly disproportionate wealth, concentrated into a few, hands at the top and redistribute into the many, increasingly poorer hands at the bottom, or it can increase the agents, informants, reach, scope, powers, personnel and brutality constituting the modern police state, whose sole mission is to maintain the dominant class position and privilege of multi-national monopoly capitalism's elite.

As revolutionaries it is our duty to educate the oppressed masses politically, practically and theoretically through direct organized collective class action. We must have real control of all institutions that affect our communities. Within the context of urban removal this includes: the multi-national developers, huge general contractors, mortgage bankers, venture capitalists and governmental agencies such as zoning boards, redevelopment authorities, Housing and Urban Development [HUD], public utilities and rate setting regulators, the courts, police and the other usual cast of predators and scavengers who show up when death, dying and despair is in the air.

We cannot and we will not allow the new millennium digital age robber barons of multi-national monopoly capitalism to continue to exploit and deceive the oppressed masses through ruling-class funded initiatives and poverty-pimp programs based on temporary token reforms that put a liberal face on fascism. Volunteers are urgently needed right now, not tomorrow but today. Our people who are dying today can't wait until tomorrow.

All Power to the People



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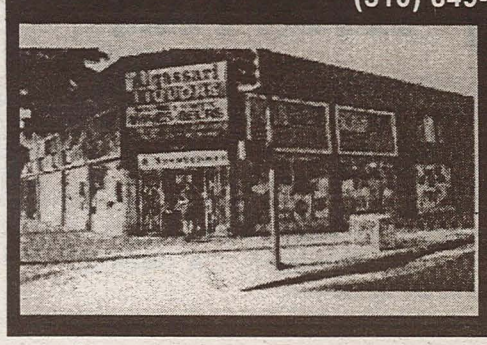

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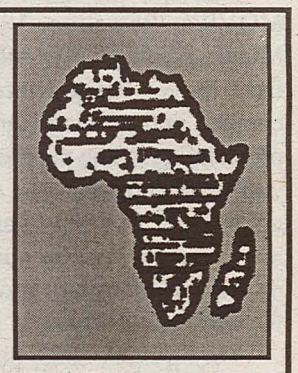

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Mumia Witness

Continued from Page 1

"motion" were wrongly considered to be a "brief, memorandum, or letter," Rule 2501(a) allows for application to be made to waive the prohibitions of that rule, and that the remand motion included such an application.

Mumia's attorneys responded by arguing that if the clerk is not ordered to file the Pate remand motion, Mumia will have been deprived of his rights to "due process" and "equal protection" of the law under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

July 4 Marks a Day of Protest for the Release of Mumia

Mumia Abu-Jamal's first official day on death row was July 4, 1982, and the 4th of July has always been a special day to protest for Mumia's freedom. This year was no exception as more than 5000 protesters gathered on July 4 in Philadelphia to protest for Mumia's freedom and against President Bush's wars of aggression abroad and attacks on civil liberties at home.

Earlier in the year, supporters gathered at Philadelphia City Hall for the "Death Row? Shut it Down!" demonstration organized to commemorate Abu-Jamal's birthday as well as the passage of the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. After Pam Africa (MOVE member and coordinator of The International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal) and others made a visit to Mayor John Street's office, the crowd marched to Governor Ed Rendell's Philadelphia office, and then to 13th & Locust, the site of the December 9, 1981 killing of police officer Daniel Faulkner and shooting and beating of Abu-Jamal.

At the age of 15, Abu-Jamal was Minister of Information of the Philadelphia Black Panther Party. Later, he was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, and was president when he was incarcerated in 1981. As a Philadelphia journalist reporting on issues such as the city's repression of the MOVE organization, he became a target of the Philadelphia authorities.

Following the City of Philadelphia's 1978 assault on MOVE's Powelton Village home, Mumia used a press conference to confront Mayor Frank Rizzo. Rizzo was enraged and publicly threatened him, proclaiming: "The people believe what you write and what you say – and it's got to stop! One day – and I hope it's in my career – you're going to have to be held responsible and accountable for what you do."

On April 24, 2003, directly outside Philadelphia's City Hall, a fiery Pam Africa proclaimed on the loudspeaker: "We are demanding due process for an innocent black political prisoner on death row. This so-called 'city of brotherly love' is where the U.S. constitution was written for some of the people. But god damn it, today we're fighting for all of the people." Despite overwhelming evidence of a corrupt 1982 trial and vast international support, the courts continue to deny Abu-Jamal a new trail.

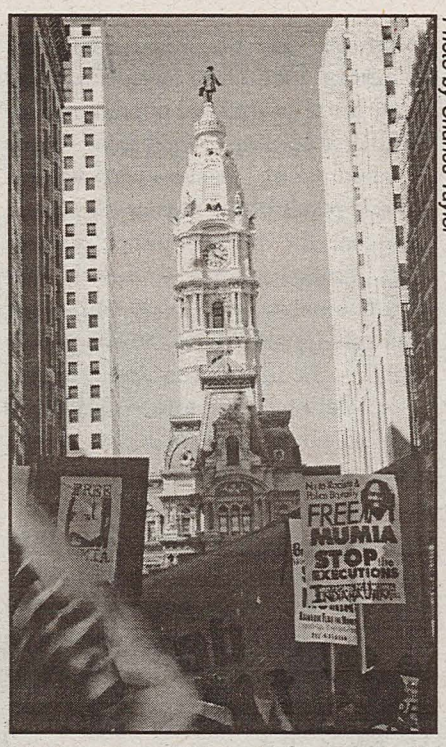

Photo by Charles Taylor

July 4th, 2003, Free Mumia demonstration, Downtown Philadelphia.

Abu-Jamal currently has two appeals pending. First is the appeal of a 2001 decision to block new evidence from being entered into the record. Among the several new statements from witnesses that were rejected were those of Abu-Jamal himself – his first public account of Dec. 9, 1981.

In his statement, Abu-Jamal proclaims his innocence, saying that he was shot while crossing the street towards Faulkner and William Cook, his brother. Abu-Jamal recounts that he heard gunshots while sitting in his taxicab and after recognizing his brother William, he left his taxi and headed across the street.

Arnold Beverly, who confessed to the murder, states that in 1981, corrupt Philadelphia police hired him as a known mob hit man to kill Faulkner who was suspected of working with the FBI in their documented investigation of the Philadelphia PD for corruption. Recounting the night, Beverly states: "I ran across Locust Street and stood over Faulkner, who had fallen backwards on the sidewalk. I shot Faulkner in the face at close range. Jamal was shot shortly after that by a uniformed police officer that arrived on the scene."

Terri Mauer-Carter was working as a stenographer in the Philadelphia Court system on the eve of Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial when she stated that she overheard Judge Sabo say in reference to the Abu-Jamal case that he was going to help the prosecution "fry the nigger."

Philadelphia journalist and Temple University professor Linn Washington writes that "Sabo's biased pre-trial profession is yet another reason to grant Abu-Jamal a new trial based on judicial misconduct. The 'system' still refuses to repudiate Sabo's biased and ethically illegal actions. Sabo, for example, refused to allow Abu-Jamal's trial attorney to inform the jury that the prosecutor's two prime witnesses each had extensive criminal records and thus were candidates for pressure from police to lie. These witnesses were an arsonist on probation and driving a cab without a driver's license, and a prostitute facing multiple court cases."

Abu-Jamal's second pending appeal is in response to U.S. District Court Judge Yohn's 2001 decision to uphold Abu-Jamal's verdict of guilt, denying a new trial, but to somewhat overturn his death sentence. Because DA Lynne Abraham immediately appealed Yohn's decision, Mumia has never left death row. While Abraham is appealing Yohn's over-turning of the death penalty into one of life imprisonment, Abu-Jamal is appealing the affirmation of his guilty verdict.

Mumia and Low-Income Prisoners are Being Denied *Habeas Corpus*

Pam Africa believes that the Effective Death Penalty Act is very significant to Abu-Jamal's case. In an interview she stated that "in 1995, when we beat back the death warrant for Mumia, state Senator Dole and a whole lot of others, stated that they were going to introduce some legislation that was going to be a sure kill for Mumia. Earlier that year, you had the Oklahoma City bombing and they introduced the Anti-terrorism bill. They came back and on April 24, 1996 they added on the EDPA."

(Editor's note: Congress passed into law the "Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (EDPA)" in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing. One of the central elements of the law was a measure calling for historic restrictions on habeas corpus – a writ having as its object to bring a party before a court or judge, directed to the person detaining that party, and commanding him to produce the body of the prisoner or person detained with the day and cause of his detention presented before the court or judge. EDPA restricts the rights of prisoners to appeal their convictions and sentences in Federal Courts. Previously the Federal appeals procedure considered a high number of death penalty cases. However, since the passage of EDPA, the powers of the Federal Courts have been greatly curtailed and now most cases pass through unchallenged.)

"When you talk about the Effective Death Penalty Act, it affects more people than just Mumia. The late Fred Thomas suffered and died under the EDPA. Shaka Sankofa was killed under it. What have we done to get rid of it? There's not enough focus and attention on the EDPA." The result speaks for itself. Judge Dembe repeatedly cited the EDPA in her decision to refuse the new evidence.

Before marching from City Hall to governor Rendell's office, Pam Africa and others visited Philadelphia Mayor John Street's office. This visit was the culmination of many prior events. In an April 2002 interview Pam Africa discussed the history of Street's relationship to Mumia Abu-Jamal. "The year before John Street became the mayor, we had three meetings with him. One time we brought him Kamal Nkrumah (the son of Kwame Nkrumah), Julia Wright (the daughter of Richard Wright), and David DuBois (the son of W.E.B. DuBois). John Street stated for

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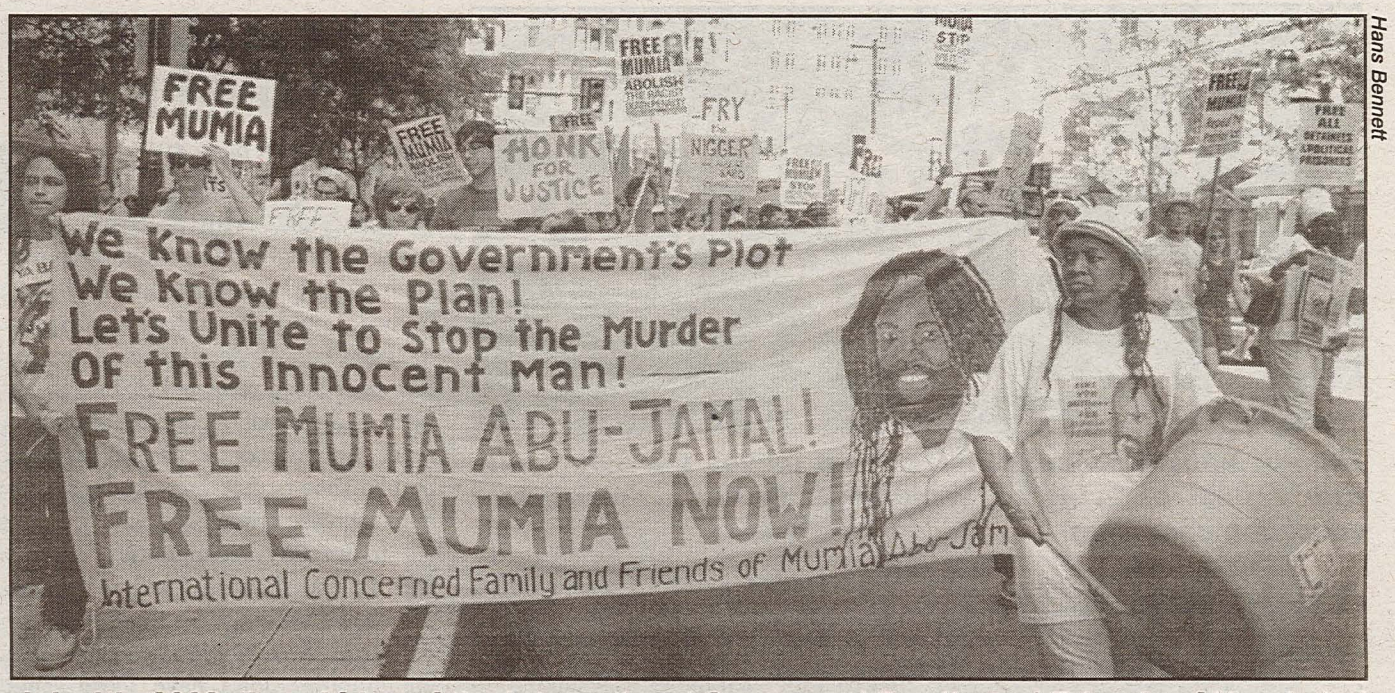
a fact that he knew that Mumia hadn't received a fair trial and that he was going to do everything in his power to get Mumia a new trial."

"Many city officials said that they would do something. But none of them ever did anything. John Street stopped meeting with us when he began running for mayor. Since he was mayor, we've brought him mayors, senators, top European union officials, and lawyers who studied the case. They were supposed to have meetings with Street, but instead, he sent a guy who didn't even bring a pen and paper – which was a goddamned insult in itself. We met with his assistant, but nothing ever came of that."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International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jam

Hans Bennett

July 4th, 2002, Pam Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia led a contingent of demonstrators through the streets of downtown Philadelphia.

Court Rejects 250,000-signature Petition Hand-Delivered by a Prominent French Delegate

In November 2002, a delegation of more than 40 French supporters of Abu-Jamal traveled to Philadelphia to hand-deliver a 250,000-signature petition to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania office at City Hall. Among the delegation were French politicians and journalists. The petition called for "the evidence to be heard"– in particular, the Arnold Beverly statement.

The Supreme Court ultimately rejected the petition on grounds that it was not done on the official form created by the courts. In response, Pam Africa and others took the petitions down the hall to Street's office and requested a meeting with him. Street had not granted a meeting with Africa and others by April 24, 2003, so a delegation of protesters visited Street's office on the 24th as other protesters gathered outside City Hall. Upon arrival at his office they were unable to meet with him or to get the boxes of petitions back.

The formidable support from France for Mumia recently was attacked in Pennsylvania House Resolution No. 119 calling for the state boycott of French wines. The resolution is largely a response to France's refusal to give UN authorization to the recent invasion of Iraq. Among a few other grievances with France, the original resolution mentions France's support for Abu-Jamal.

After leaving City Hall, the crowd marched to Rendell's Philadelphia office at Broad and Walnut. While a delegation entered the building to speak to his office, the crowd took the street while Pam Africa castigated Rendell on the bullhorn, saying that "Governor Rendell is part of a conspiracy to commit cold-blooded and pre-meditated murder of Black political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. He is the master murderer who gave the order as DA to drop a bomb on 11 black men, women, and children" in the 1985 police assault on MOVE.

Suzanne Ross from the New York City Coalition to Free Mumia was part of the delegation that visited Rendell's office, where they spoke to the Executive Assistant to the governor. "We asked her if the governor knew about the recent report of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court committee that investigated the issue of prejudice, racism, and sexism in the use of the death penalty. This report found tremendous racism and other prejudice in the selection of who is to be executed. By ignoring this report he is ignoring his own judiciary and is getting away with it."

This delegation also spoke to Rendell's assistant about Amnesty International (AI)'s annual conference – held in early April in nearby Pittsburgh. By an overwhelming majority vote, AI chose to continue their longtime support for Abu-Jamal. They also agreed to file a brief calling for the courts to hear the evidence currently being rejected. Eventually Rendell's office called on the police to remove Mumia's supporters.

By Framing Mumia the Government Ultimately Betrays Daniel Faulkner

After visiting Rendell's office, the crowd then proceeded to 13th & Locust and gathered at the memorial to Daniel Faulkner where Faulkner was killed and where Mumia was critically shot and beaten. Addressing the crowd, Pam Africa stated that Judge Dembe's refusal to hear the statements of Terri Mauer-Carter, Arnold Beverly, and others was the ultimate betrayal of Daniel Faulkner. She felt that by framing Mumia and suppressing other evidence, the courts have refused to make a sincere investigation into what happened in 1981. Speaking to Faulkner's spirit, Africa proclaimed "we'll make sure that you get closure by continuing to point out that Mumia Abu-Jamal is innocent of your murder. I know you're flipping and turning in your grave because your brothers and sisters have turned their backs on you."

Despite appeals to the police to have an honest investigation into Faulkner's death, the Philadelphia PD as a whole has not been interested. The national Fraternal Order of Police organization continues to lobby for Abu-Jamal's execution.

The Philadelphia PD's civil affairs unit is generally pretty tame at demonstrations for Abu-Jamal. However, when several Philadelphia bike cops attacked a demonstration for Abu-Jamal on December 8, 2001, civil affairs – supposedly there to protect protesters from violent counter-protesters as well as "rogue" cops – was conspicuously absent and did not intervene to protect those being attacked. That day a Buddhist priest with a heart condition was almost killed. Police threw one woman to the ground by her hair and subsequently fractured her tailbone as she was dragged away. Another bike cop drew his gun on the crowd at close range and then proceeded to put his gun on the neck of a protester that he had tackled. Later in court this officer denied pulling his gun on the crowd. While those attacked faced charges from the day, no police officer was charged with wrongdoing.

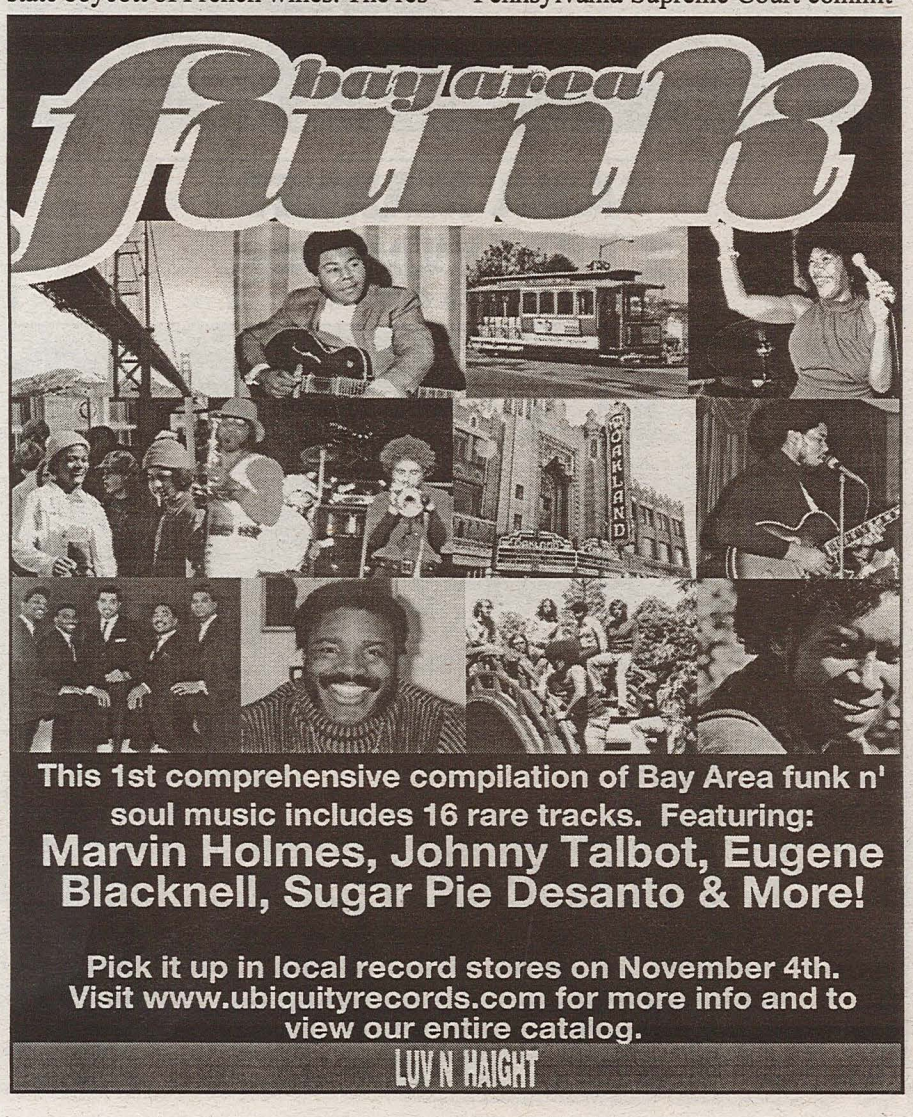
While there has not since been a police attack of this scale, Philadelphia demonstrations for Abu-Jamal continue to be a target of police hostility.

Herb Avram, editor of Philadelphia's *Insubordination* magazine, writes that "the attempt to execute Abu-Jamal is the ultimate form of state censorship. His journalism (beginning as the 15-year-old Minister of Information of the Philadelphia Black Panther Party) demonstrates the revolutionary potential of alternative media and the subsequent lengths to which the powers that be will go to censor those that threaten them."

"Through a 1982 trial replete with both fabricated evidence as well as a denial of his constitutional right to represent himself, Mumia Abu-Jamal was framed for the murder of Daniel Faulkner. Other U.S. revolutionaries have been framed the same way. Geronimo jiJaga (Pratt) of the Los Angeles BPP was released after 27 years of imprisonment for a murder that the FBI knew he was innocent of. The FBI suppressed surveillance tapes proving he was at a BPP meeting in Oakland, Calif. at the time of the LA murder. Dhoruba Bin Wahad of the New York BPP was released after being imprisoned for 19 years. Mumia Abu-Jamal is a prisoner of this same war and should be immediately released."

Hans Bennett, independent, photo- journalist, who writes for Insubordination *magazine, is also a Philadelphia correspondent for* The Commemorator. *He can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 30770, Philadelphia, PA 19104.*

All Power to the People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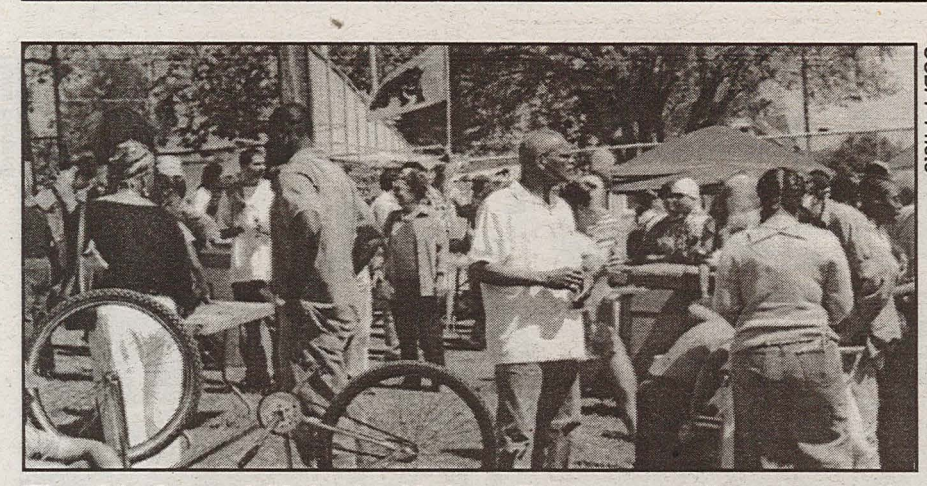


CCBPP Photo

The 4th Annual Malcolm X Jazz Fest moves the community with a host of activities, including CCBPP/Commemorator education campaign.

Malcolm X Day

Continued from page 4

a guide for all the oppressed masses of African Americans, all the oppressed peoples of color and the oppressed and exploited working class and workingmen and women everywhere.

Three Names, Three Periods of the Life of Malcolm X.

For Malcolm X was a champion for the oppressed and exploited; a warrior for the revolutionary change, a staunch and relentless opponent of all oppressors, monopoly capitalists, racists and all their supporters, turncoats and traitors to the people's best interests.

Malcolm X's life is a living legacy because in his unfolding development and growth mirrors the growth and development of the movement for justice and freedom of all oppressed people," said Amiri Baraka.

Malcolm Little

From the beginning, Malcolm X experienced the bitter and violent racist oppression that Black people face in America.

Before he was born, his family was burned out of their home because his father was a recruiter for the openly pro-black, back-to-Africa movement of Marcus Garvey. His early years were ones of moving endlessly from place to place and state to state, either because his father's and mother's political views, or because landlords would not rent to Blacks, or because there was work — but no work for Blacks.

Much of this still goes on today, but under new names: "Redlining", "Just Cause Rental" etc. Despite the new names, any time such practices are directed at people because of their color, this is racism.

Soon after finding a home in the state of Michigan, Malcolm's father was murdered by the black knights, a Michigan Ku Klux Klan organization. The shock of her husband's murder pushed Malcolm's mother into mental illness and the State Welfare Department rushed in, seized Malcolm and his brothers and sisters and had their mother committed. No attempt was made to place Malcolm and his brothers and sisters with known, caring family — instead they were separated and shipped out to foster homes, mostly with whites who were paid to 'correctly' raise the 'little negroes'.

The same practice continues today. Particularly if one is on welfare, the CPA (Child Protection Agency) can and will come down on a family based on unverified reports of charges from unknown phone callers. In Oakland, children have been taken from their parents for such things as spanking — not beating — because they did not allow their children to watch TV, or to play at certain dangerous parks. These children are sent to foster parents, some of whom have as many as 16 wards. The foster parents receive anywhere from $300 to $600 monthly per ward. Clearly this is very profitable. This is also profitable for the city and state, which get money from the Federal Government for each child they take into "protective custody". This is nothing but new-style slave exploitation built on the destruction of families. The main victims are African Americans and Hispanic people.

As a young teen Malcolm was finally united with a family Aunt in Boston. Escaping the trap of the foster care system, he soon turned to another trap: the lure of the streets. As it is now so it was then: the capitalist principle of working the fewest workers, combined with overt racism, meant that employment opportunities for blacks were very few. Only the lowest paid and most degrading jobs were available — doormen, cleaners, shoe boys, dishwashers — and these jobs paid only pennies.

With opportunities like these, one can understand why crime seems such an attractive option. Like a shadow, crime is the ever-present companion of capitalism. This system can never achieve anything close to full employment.

All Power to the People

CCBPP Photo

***Brother Umar Bin Hassen, member of famed group Last Poets, gives the audience an ear full with* "Niggers Scared of Revolution."**

Private Profits vs. Public Need

Continued from page 10

property and medical costs. Most researchers agreed the assumption that each prisoner would commit 187 street crimes if not incarcerated, was a gross exaggeration. Indeed, this statement has since been retracted. While it has been shown that increased imprisonment does not reduce crime, it has been amply shown that increased poverty does increase crime.

In wealthy communities, parents take up the slack in funding through private schooling, PTA fundraising or non-profit foundations. Lower income communities don't have those same resources.

"The Power of the People is Greater than the Man's Technology"
— Dr. Huey P. Newton

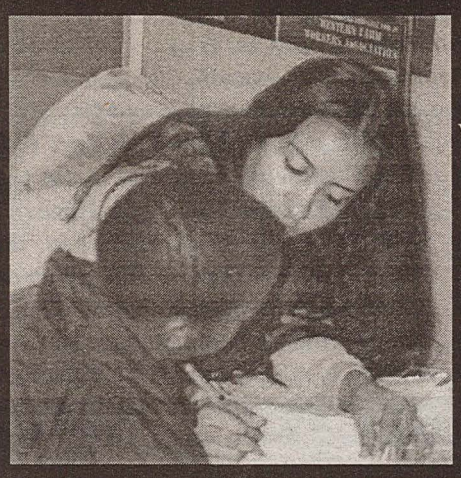
Dr. Shaka Draper, former director of Public Relations for an independent Afro-centric Children's Book Company in Philadelphia, who worked closely with Philadelphia Public schools for two years stated that, "We are looking at a system that educates the masses to serve in menial jobs to serve the less than 1% who control 99.5% of the wealth. Capitalist industrialization created public education to train people to work in their factories. Today the need is far less for workers. The schools are not advocating education, just like prisons are not advocating rehabilitation. The solution is for our people to take responsibility for our children's education and the only way we can do that is by building our own schools and taking control of the curriculum."

This same observation was made by Dr. Huey P. Newton in 1971, 24 years before Dr. Draper, "The working class will be narrowed down, the class of unemployables will grow because it will take more and more skills to operate those machines and fewer people." *(Dr. Huey P. Newton Intercommunalism: The Huey P. Newton Reader, p.193.)*

Higher education, tenure and academic freedom become a joke. What is happening in our colleges and universities is not happening in a vacuum. Many people see it as part of sweeping changes in our economy, perhaps summarized under the heading, "corporatization," as Richard Moser has written, in a paper entitled, "The new Academic Labor System Corporatization":

It is no coincidence that the period 1972-1977 marked the first surge and greatest relative growth in the use of adjunct faculty. We look back at the early 1970s as a time when society's existing economic assumptions underwent profound revision. In higher education the changing times were, and still are, characterized by

Continued on page 20



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Ken Pate Vicious Cycle

Continued from page 3

are very dangerous tools used by police and prison guards to remain in a comfortable and profitable position of control. Being poor, white, black or other person of color, and incarcerated in the state of Pennsylvania has granted many unsuspecting men, women and children the opportunity to know "First Hand" the effect [that] programming, drugs, and ignorance have had on the poor and misfortunate.

Now, I understand clearly the crabs in the bucket syndrome, and without doubt, realize that "Genocide" is well and alive in the State of Pennsylvania. For so long, the claim has been made that we have been indoctrinated into believing a man isn't a man until he physically makes his first kill, in a way of speaking. And judging from the new numbers of corrupted police, prison guards, and state officials swelling in the ranks of units within units, I guess there are many men made at the cost of other's lives.

In February of 1981, Philadelphia's notoriously corrupt homicide detectives arrested me in the Nicetown section of Philadelphia. I wasn't afforded a fair trial, either because the counsel appointed was unavailable, or when he was available on 06/16/83, he was found in contempt of court. He was fined $500 and was arrested on or about 07/01/83. Later, a new counsel was appointed to handle post-verdict motion proceedings. He too was arrested and sent to prison. He never had the chance to file an appeal in my case. There were two crucial hearings in my case held in my absence, 12/03/81 and 02/21/91, which led to my unlawful sentence.

I made a very hard decision before giving my declaration on May 18, 2003, which alienated me from nearly half of my own family members, and that was to let the truth be known. I have spoken the truth. If I should now die at the hands of the correctional officers named herein, then I will be dying with a clear conscience.

THERE ARE NO TRANSCRIPTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

The lower courts say I have exhausted my state remedies, but the district courts say that I have not exhausted state remedies. And, in addition, I am being barred from filing a second P.C.R.A., exhausting my state remedies. Being poor, I am unable to hire new counsel or to pay the higher courts' filing fees. So I suffer. Organizations can't or won't assist me because they are understaffed or do not have enough funds.

In May of 2003 Mr. Jeff Mackler wrote an article entitled "New Witness Exposes Mumia Frameup," that refers to the my declaration. For three and a half years now, since 02/23/00, I have been locked down 23 hours a day, here at the State

Continued on page 19.

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Ruchell Magee

Continued from page 4

Court of San Francisco County (case number 68668). Other jurors joined my declaration with written statements confirming the acquittal.

***

As shown by the Enclosure records, after we eliminated the greater charge, the jury was deadlocked on the lesser-included offense of P.C. 207 (simple kidnapping).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed: Bernard J. Suares.

SUITABLE FOR BOARD RELEASE FACTORS:

A. TIME SERVED: Mr. Magee has served 40 years in California State Prison, since commencement of prosecution March 23, 1963.

B. UNDER THE LAW: Magee was sentenced to 7 years to life, the sentences of August 1965, by the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and the Superior Court of Santa Clara County at the end 1968, at 17 years.

***

C. FALSE INFORMATION: All findings by the Board in previous denials since 1980, as shown by the transcript, were based on false information inconsistent with the evidence. The previous Board hearings painted a false picture of Magee as having been convicted of murder, kidnaping and posing a threat to the public, if released.

***

The jury heard the evidence regarding the murder and kidnaping charges, and concluded that Magee was not guilty. These charges were predicated on the testimony of the witness, Thomas, whose testimony was found to be too inconsistent for belief. The record shows the court dismissed the murder charge for lack of evidence. The appropriate authority needs to investigate the information, which the Board has been using to distort Magee's character.

Magee testified during trial. The evidence shows that he was not in Marin County to kidnap or murder, but that he got caught up in a situation. He was brought to the courthouse from San Quentin Prison where he was being held in isolation, as a witness for one James McClain. As Magee testified, the court was taken over by McClain and Jonathan Jackson. Magee was told he would have a chance to reach television news to expose the Los Angeles conviction, which he had for years challenged in the Appellate Courts, claiming kangaroo-court frame-ups kept him locked up.

D. AUTHORITY TO REPORT A FELONY: The Board has authority to report a crime committed in its presence.

The Board has been lied to in the concealment of the jury's acquittal.

The Attorney General's office is opposed to the jury's acquittal, and therefore should dismiss itself from the case. In court, acting as prosecution, the Attorney General's office claimed to represent the jury, the People of the State of California. The People have nothing to do with concealing the acquittal in this matter!

The Governor, by law, may pardon an innocent person wrongly confined in prison. The Governor has only to review the acquittal, the Attorney General's office's concealment of this fact in an apparent effort to condemn an innocent man to death.

The Attorney General's office crossed the line of jury tampering in 1973 when they presented a false affidavit opposing Magee's right to enter a plea of double jeopardy to the charge of kidnaping (P.C. 209). The court was led to believe that the jury impeached the acquittal, because Magee's court-appointed lawyers failed or refused to tell the court that the jury gave the trial judge their acquittal BEFORE the court declared it a mistrial. Had this fact been presented, the acquittal would have contradicted the false affidavits presented by the Attorney General's office. These false information proceedings went on for a year, and on May 10, 1974, Magee entered a guilty plea to the kidnapping charge, for which he had been acquitted. This was an extraordinary plea, the act of an innocent man trapped by court-appointed lawyers, working with the prosecution, to get the too radical Magee back behind prison bars, where the efforts to put him to death continue.

Magee filed a written motion to dismiss the guilty plea, because it was forced as his only defense to stop lawyer's false misrepresentation. His legal documents, filed with the courts

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S.F. Act Up!

Continued from Page 6

virus. People diagnosed with HIV are told the virus is teaming through their bodies, eradicating and out multiplying their immune system's response. But after twenty years there still is no test to detect the virus. We believe the people diagnosed with HIV who ask the following question should be heard, and responded to: If antibodies kill viruses, and the medical establishment can only find antibodies, why can we not conclude that testing antibody positive is a sign of immune stimulation, and not immune suppression?

Additionally, we believe that people are being misled concerning the accuracy of the test. Over sixty conditions can cause a false positive response. Pregnancy, past pregnancy, hepatitis, the flu, the flu vaccine, herpes and rheumatoid arthritis are all known to cause antibodies that would trigger false positives on the HIV test. The two commonly used tests in America are banned in many countries because they are unreliable. The FDA has not approved either test for diagnosing HIV. We give voice to those concerned that this test is mandatory for a number of pregnant women, when pregnancy itself produces the very antibodies that would skew the test. We are concerned that a number of people, unaware that there are so many factors that could cause a false positive, take an HIV positive test result as a death sentence, believing they are infectious to loved ones, they are going to die, and their only hope is a handful of miracle drugs.

San Francisco used to lead the country in its compassionate, caring response to people diagnosed with AIDS. Though not without its own history of AIDS discrimination, San Francisco established a model for others, specifically the gay community, to follow in responding to the emerging crisis. Agencies and support services were set up for every aspect of life. Today many of those agencies still exist, but they no longer lead the way in compassion. When executive directors make over two hundred thousand dollars a year while overseeing cut backs in services to sick people, everyone should stand with one unified voice and say "Enough is enough!" People who believe HIV is the sole cause of AIDS should join us in exposing the parasitic side of AIDS service providers.

We believe that people are being misled concerning the accuracy of the test.

We call attention to the fact that the number of AIDS cases and deaths in San Francisco has steadily declined since 1992. Despite this fact, gays, blacks, Latinos and women consistently find themselves targeted by scare stories about alarming rises in AIDS rates. However, the numbers released by the San Francisco Department of Public Health in the Quarterly AIDS Surveillance Report clearly show a steady decline of AIDS in all ages, races and sexes. The number of AIDS diagnoses for men peaked in 1992 with 2,539 cases. In 2002 there were 274. Cases of women peaked in 1994 with 112 cases and have declined to 29 total cases in 2002. In 1992 the number of AIDS cases in blacks peaked with 322 cases, there were 68 cases in 2002. Latino AIDS cases also peaked in 1992 with 338 cases and totaled 44 cases in 2002. AIDS deaths have also declined. In 1992 1,820 people died from AIDS related conditions. In 2002 that number had dropped to 173 people. Despite the constant barrage of media stories to the contrary, AIDS cases have been on the decline in San Francisco for almost ten years.

Lastly, we feel we should address the issue of AIDS in Africa. As established above, the HIV test is unreliable and the drugs used are toxic. The HIV test is often not used in Africa; there are too many naturally occurring conditions that render the test useless. Tuberculosis and malaria, as well as their treatments, produce antibodies that will cause false positives. In Africa, a person only needs to exhibit diarrhea, weight loss, chronic cough and fever to be diagnosed with AIDS. The government would not dare use such a loose description to label Americans with a death sentence. Why should we tolerate it when talking about Africans? Africa is a vast continent with droughts and floods, multiple civil wars and urban unrest, devastating, world-imposed poverty. In many places there is need for basic health care where people often die of curable illnesses. We do not believe there is one solution for the problems that plague Africa. Nor do we believe the solutions for African problems will come in the form of drugs from western countries. We strongly support the efforts of South African President Thabo Mbeki, who refused to bankrupt his country's health care budget by spending all of the money on AIDS drugs, as was demanded by Washington. Mbeki has clearly stated the problems of Africa are unique to Africa and the solutions should come from Africans. If Africans decide they need western assistance, they should determine the kind of assistance, and they should be able to establish a payment system that will not bankrupt their countries nor put them in perpetual poverty.

We do not purport to have the answers; we are only trying to create a space where people can ask these important questions. The drugs used to treat AIDS are toxic, the HIV test is unreliable, and money meant to help people is being needlessly wasted on salaries. Certainly the readership of *The Commemorator* recognizes the need for questioning AIDS dogma that comes from Washington; to hold people in leadership positions accountable to the public, whether they are AIDS service CEO's or US Senators. It is healthy to speculate why the federal government now cares enough about AIDS to spend over 15 billion dollars on its global AIDS budget and to be alarmed when a bigot like Jesse Helms promotes AIDS funding in Africa. These politicians do not have a newfound love for Africans or a strong drive to fight AIDS, but rather are engaging in a form of capitalistic imperialism by gaining access to countries previously closed to American investors.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to continue this much needed discussion, and for bringing this debate to an audience willing to engage, argue and build bridges.

In Solidarity,
ACT UP! San Francisco
General Membership

Editor's note: San Francisco ACT UP! organization has been a supporter and sponsor of The Commemorator *for the past five years. Editorial policy of* The Commemorator *newspaper is to publish letters of interest to our readers. In relation to questions of medical care and medical coverage,* The Commemorator *holds to Point Number Six of the BPP Ten Point Program and Platform: "We want completely free Health Care for all black and oppressed people. We believe that the government must provide free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide our selves with proper medical attention and care."*

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To Women Prisoners

Families With A Future is holding a lottery for you to have visits with your children. We are encouraging women who are serving terms 5 years and longer to apply. There is no guarantee that a visit can or will happen, but if your name is chosen, we will do our best to coordinate with your family or extended family for a visit with your children. If you are a donor and wish to donate again, this is what we need:

- *Money for transportation and hotel accommodations.*
- *Drivers with a good vehicle.*
- *Contacts and short term housing for women just released.*

Mail your request to: FWAF/LSPC, 1540 Market Street
Suite 490, San Francisco, CA. 94102
e-mail: fwaf@prisonerswithchildren.org

Ken Pate Vicious Cycle

Continued from page 17

Correctional Institution, Greene County (hereafter SCI-Greene). I am being housed in an L-5 unit (special unit), which is a death row housing unit (G-Block, D-24 Cell). I was not sentenced by a court to be legally murdered, but I have been chosen by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. I have been, and still am being, stalked by rogue correctional officers, Correction Officer Minick, Correctional Officer Hawkenberry, Correctional Officer Rush and another 2 to 6 officers claiming to be of the White Knight Order who are being influenced by the three above-named officers to tamper with my food trays. These officers' actions are being covered up and justified by other superior officers that are a part of their special unit here in the L-5 unit, of which Captain Martin is the ringleader. Their chain of command includes Lt. Gambarbic, Lt. Norman, Lt. Reed and unit managers Miller and Capozza. Their senior officers, Major(s) Casner and Lockett, turn a blind eye to the special unit activities. Most of the correctional officers and superior officers have been working in one, or another part, of the L-5 unit(s) for over 5 years and never rotated, according to Pennsylvania Department of Correction policies. These officers and officials are abusing prisoners and fabricating evidence and information against prisoners and hiding behind the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections emblem they wear on their uniforms.

Since the attorney for Mumia came to the prison on May 12, 2003, the named officers have redoubled their efforts against me by coming into my cell and taking and destroying personal and legal property or confiscating items and denying me yard exercise privileges, saying I refused them. If they are not just outright walking by my cell passing me up during meal times they're giving me trays with candy wrappers and other items on the trays in with the food. My mail is being returned to my family and myself, not being processed at times. False information is being put in my files to later be used to justify their use of excessive force against me.

I made a very hard decision before giving my declaration on May 18, 2003, which alienated me from nearly half of my own family members, and that was to let the truth be known. I have spoken the truth. If I should now die at the hands of the correctional officers named herein, then I will be dying with a clear conscience.

To those whom may read these words and need more information please contact me.

Kenneth Pate-BW6320,
175 Progress Drive,
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Cuttin' Up
Hair Salon

510.236.0126
Email: Cutnupp@aol.com
2540 MacDonald Ave
Richmond, CA 94804

Soldiers of Misfortune

Continued from Page 3

poor and the working-classes; those who can find no space in a tight economic environment. They fight abroad because they are exhausted from the never-ending fight at home, for a decent, affordable education, for decent housing, for a job with some degree of longevity. They are fighting to survive against a truly ruthless enemy—those who run America's economy.

Join The Coalition To Amend California's Three Strikes (ACTS)

Support Initiative 2004
Campaign for Sensible Sentencing

A prison housing 4000 inmates costs $300 million to build and $100 million each year to operate.

Nonviolent offenders are being warehoused in maximum-security prisons, costing taxpayers $1.3 million per inmate (over his or her lifetime).

Multiple studies have shown that the current "3-Strikes" law has not decreased the crime rate in California — in some studies the crime rate has actually increased.

Since the implementation of the "3-strikes" law, the state of California has built 21 prisons and 1 university.

The prison system is the fastest growing department in state government. It is now larger than transportation and health care.

There are now over 30,000 non-violent 2nd and 3rd strike prisoners in California's maximum security prisons. It will cost California taxpayers $2-3 billion for their incarceration.

510-.243-6978-Pager [Dr. Jaime Galindo] Forgiveness70x7@cs.com
714-780-8901, or www.amend3strikes.org

Chronicle Rebuttal

Continued from Page 6

oppression does not make people saintly, it makes them potential killers; all victims are dangerous.

People who share a common history of humiliation and enslavement are taught to mistrust one another, even as children. This condition is not a mystery because the people they should mistrust are completely beyond their awareness and influence.

However, the first law of Nature is giving (not self-defense). A little child will give you anything in the house — even its toys. Self-defense has to be learned.

If there were ever a misfit, an outsider in all of history, he is surely the American Black vis-à-vis American society. He seeks to replace economic incentives and racism with justice, while the nation resorts to economic incentives and racism to replace him; he struggles to be in the vanguard to reconstruct society, while the nation reconstructs technology so that he is no longer needed. His songs are the saddest songs in all the world.

The pace of scientific and technological change destroys the lower rungs of the economic ladder just as most Blacks begin to reach them. Cheap illegal drugs dumped into the Black communities take care of the others. People far more sophisticated than Huey Newton would be corrupted by being given free drugs and large sums of money.

Most of us have collective amnesia when it comes to studying the history of the founding of the Black Panther Party, their ten-point program, and the methods used by the government and the Establishment in general to destroy them.

As for Eldridge Cleaver's statements to Ms. Coleman about shooting up a police patrol car I will say that I knew him and talked to him a number of times the year before he died and he is not to be believed as a reliable source for those comments. His mental and emotional problems go back to his youth.

Ms. Coleman should have spent more time reading African American history and in talking to those who were active Panther members during its first four years. She would have found some surprising information hidden beneath the stardust of their dreams.

Sincerely,
Tom Sanders

Ruchell Magee

Continued from page 17

since 1973, show the sentencing court acted without jurisdiction, entering a "guilty" plea to a charge not being constitutionally triable. He shows the acquittal in the records has been ignored, as result of lawyers' misrepresentations. Further, it shows how the Los Angeles conviction resulted from the lawyers entering a "guilty" plea on their own. The concealment of the acquittal of the 1970 trial was similar to tactics of falsified information used back in the 1960s he was first imprisoned.

The District Attorney of the Los Angeles trial, (Evelle J. Younger), took over the prosecution in the 1970's trial. The California Attorney General's office was clearly at odds with the jury's acquittal. The Attorney General referred to Magee's documents in court as being "frivolous." Jury decisions cannot be labeled frivolous! I was present in the jury room. No one other than a jury member of the trial has first hand knowledge of what occurred there.

E. BOARD RELEASING POWER: The Board has authority by well-established law to release Magee. First, they should hold a Determinate Sentence Law Hearing. Secondly, they should set a release date, pursuant to Penal Code 1170.2, which the Board was required to do by July 1, 1977 in all lifers' sentences. Neither the Attorney General, nor the Governor, has legal authority to refute the Board's compliance with the Determinate Sentence Law. [(See In Re: Rodriquez, 122 Cal Rptr. 332; In re Williams, 125 Cal. Rptr. 437 (d1976): also see In re MONIGOLD, 139 Cal. App. 3d 487 (1983) By declaring its independence from erroneous court decisions based on false documents, the Board may fix base term according to law. Here, the Board will not be acting as a judicial body. For instance, when an innocent man is subjected to character assassination, his real character is falsely drawn and he will be deemed not suitable for release. He takes on the appearance of a criminal and false evidence is accepted as true. Only after all that can we accept the attorney general's contention that Magee would pose a threat to the public if released. To end this injustice, the Board may turn the case over to the Governor, who may wish to assign a special investigation.

EMERGENCY REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The Jury gave their acquittal to the trial judge; this acquittal is in the court record but concealed.This acquittal automatically supersedes legal falsehoods, such as: The improper guilty plea forced upon Magee, and the false affidavit presented by the prosecution claiming the jury impeached itself. After having been given the acquittal, the trial court abused its discretion by failing to read the jurors' verdicts in open court. (Evidence Code 1150). Because of the circumstances of this matter, the California Inspector General has been served a copy of these proceedings, which that office may investigate. Should the Inspector General acknowledge such evidence of innocence, this case will finally be truthfully resolved.

RELIEF: The Board is requested to hold the Determinate Sentence Law hearing and fix time and release for Mr. Magee, or forward the matter to the Governor with recommendation for investigation into evidence of innocence, requiring a pardon where such evidence is found. I certify under penalty of perjury the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Private Profits vs. Public Need

Continued from page 16

disinvestments, the ascendancy of a corporate style of management, and the subsequent shifting of costs and risks to those who teach, research and study. That meant that the faculty would be slowly transformed into part-time employees without due process or economic security and that students would increasingly carry a greater burden of the costs as higher tuition, debt and work."

In a community supported, all-volunteer program, such as the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party's Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, we could not presume to do the work that federal, state and local government bodies with taxing powers are mandated to do. Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy volunteers, however, have not only been increasing the number of learners receiving literacy training in 2003, but have also been attending Oakland Board of Education budget hearings, speaking at high schools and middle schools in Oakland, canvassing and clipboarding state-wide student and teacher protests at the state capitol to enlist more volunteers for the fight for our low-income and working class communities to have education available that meets our needs.

Toward a Solution

That is why CCBPP's Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign not only needs more volunteers to help with the tutoring programs but the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party needs volunteers to help build campaigns to gain the power over our education and our lives in communities across this nation. Join us. Call (510) 652-7170 to schedule an interview.

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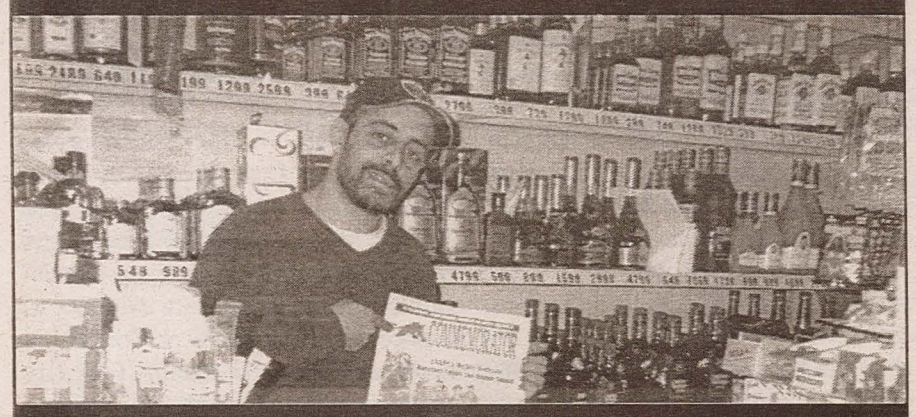
"Commemorator (Black Panther Party Legacy) makes a lot of sense." — Abraham.

Huey's Corner

Continued from page 8

was not followed or observed by a plainclothes agent on all of his travels to and from the apartment building.

One of the undercover agents placed in the apartment 25B was Don Roberto Stinnette, who was described (in an FBI case report on Newton) as "involved with local drug traffic."[67] Stinnette, who professed to be on parole from a California prison, remained in the apartment for several months while he spied on Newton, his associates and guests.

On November 18, 1972, Newton's wife, Gwen Fountaine Newton, discovered men burglarizing and ransacking their apartment when she reported unexpectedly:

After leaving the apartment with Huey, I returned with Huey's niece, Deborah, because I had forgotten something. I entered to find three men robbing the apartment. They held me at gunpoint. Their pistols had silencers on them. Huey's documents and other papers were strewn about on the floor.[68]

Files and records, along with clothes and heavy furniture, were taken by these men from the apartment—a closed, supposedly secure complex with a doorman and basement garage that could be entered only with the aid of an apartment-supplied electronic garage-door opener. How and why did these men enter this complex, burglarize the penthouse apartment, and leave undetected with so much stolen property? The Party believes that the stolen records and materials were actually moved next door during the robbery to the apartment of the FBI agent or informant. Later, when it was convenient to go unnoticed, the materials were quietly but openly moved out in crates and boxes from an art exhibit supposedly held in this same agent's apartment.[69]

Literally no tactic was too bizzare, unconscionable, or extreme for government intelligence officials. On Saturday morning, February 18, 1973, at 5:30 a.m., a squad of Oakland police officers conducted a raid on the twenty-fifth floor of Huey Newton's apartment building. For cover, they had obtained a warrant, "authorized for night service," for the arrest of Don Roberto Stinnette for unpaid traffic tickets. The police team proceeded to engage in a "shootout" with Stinnette, who was equipped with a semiautomatic rifle, in the hall outside Newton's apartment. Newton refused to take the bait to open his door. Surprisingly, neither Stinnette nor police were injured. Later, the media reported the news of "gunfire" at the "swank apartment . . . next door to Black Panther leader Huey Newton's."[70] But the press had missed what was perhaps the real story: That the police and undercover agent had staged the entire "shootout" in hopes that Newton could be drawn out of his apartment where he could be shot.

It is not difficult to divine the intended effect of these FBI actions, of just why the Bureau felt they might, through the aggregate of activity, "neutralize" the Party's founder. In the words of one observer:

Do you remember what it is like to have one friend mad at you, against you, or even an enemy, or someone out to get you as may have happened occasionally when you were a kid? But how many of us have this baring experience now? Occasionally someone may be after our job or promotion, but not our life or our freedom. We cannot even imagine what it is like to have one or all of the major investigatory agencies against us. To have phones always tapped. To have no one able to know you without that person also becoming a public enemy. To be watched for minute traffic violations every time you drive to the store. To be under constant observation. To never know who might be a paid informer or a fake next door neighbor. And in the midst of this, to have a developing community strained by the very pressures around you, around your friends, around a vision of the people which is unbearable to our present society.

Fostering a Newton-Cleaver Split

In March 1970, the FBI zeroed in on Eldridge Cleaver, then in exile in Algiers after he had been told to leave Cuba. The Bureau learned that the high-strung Cleaver had "accepted as bonafide" a fictitious letter "stating that BPP leaders in California were seeking to undercut his influence."

Footnotes

55 Interview with Charles R. Garry, February 21, 1978. Mr. Garry is an attorney in San Francisco who has represented the Party for many years against false criminal charges. The quotation in the text is from a memorandum dictated by Mr. Garry upon reviewing FBI files made available to him pursuant to court order in Dellinger v. Mitchell, Civ. Action No. 1768-69, Fed. Dist. Ct. (D.C. 1969).

56 Ibid.

57 Ibid.

58 Declaration of Walter W. Niles, August 30, 1977, and filed in People v. Newton, Nose. 64624A and 65919. Niles had overall responsibility for management of the apartment building in which Huey Newton resided. He testified that "the rent for apartment 25B [the one next to Newton] ...was being paid by the FBI....A man named Roger M. Duclot was the building engineer...he was being paid as an informant by the FBI, and ... he assisted the FBI in installing various electronic devices in the walls of the apartment 25B...."

59 FBI Memorandum from San Francisco Field Office to Hqtrs, November 24, 1970.

60 Ibid.

61 In a February 1971 report on COINTELPRO activities, the San Francisco Division described the Examiner article as one of its "counter-intelligence activities." FBI Memorandum from San Francisco Field Office to Hqrts, February 25, 1971.

62 Ibid.

63 FBI Memorandum from SAC, San Francisco to Director, FBI, January 4, 1971.

64 FBI Memorandum from SAC, New Orleans to Director, February 11, 1971.

65 Ibid.

66 Interview with Charles R. Garry, above at n. 55.

Continued on page 22

Free Mumia • Free the Move 11 • Ya Basta! • Dyke Power! Fag Power! • Queers Bash Back • Free All Political Prisoners • Viva Zapata! • Animal Liberation

Don't Buy the HIV Lie • Homosex is Best • Pro-Choice! Pro-Queer! • AIDS is Over! • Stop Animal Testing • Sodomites Unite • Animal Liberation • Femme in the Sheets, Butch on the Streets • Don't Buy the HIV Lie • Queers Bash Back

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AIDS in Africa: New Plague or Old Illnesses of Poverty?

Racist HIV Myth Hides Ruthless U.S. Exploitation.

Unlike in the United States, AIDS in Africa is most frequently diagnosed based on four very imprecise clinical symptoms—diarrhea, fever, persistent cough, and weight loss greater than 10% over two months. *HIV antibody tests are not required to diagnose a case of African AIDS.* These four clinical symptoms are identical to the problems created by conditions of poverty that have troubled Africa and other developing areas of the world for centuries. In fact, symptoms of the so-called African AIDS epidemic are indistinguishable from the effects of malnutrition, unsanitary drinking and bathing water, and common curable conditions like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, and parasitic infections.

Rather than solve the problems of African poverty caused by centuries of ruthless Western exploitation, the U.S. government insists on broadcasting the doomsday notion that Africa is suddenly gripped by a deadly, spreading sexual plague. According to these American health authorities, salvation from sickness can only be found in profitable pills manufactured by the white West and exported to black Africa.

America's Racist HIV Myth

The idea that AIDS originated in Africa is a popular myth without any scientific or epidemiological evidence. News reports that blame AIDS on African green monkeys are based upon elaborate speculation about species-jumping viruses rather than reliable proof. Tall tales about the spread of AIDS are promoted through the most vulgar and racist sexual stereotypes about promiscuous African people.

Still, the numbers speak for themselves. According to the 1999 *WHO Global HIV/AIDS Report,* the total number of AIDS cases in Africa virtually equals the total number of cases in America even though Africa, with its 650 million citizens, has more than two times the population of the United States. Africa is often cited as a worst case example of what could happen in America despite figures demonstrating that 99.5% of Africans do not have AIDS, and among Africans who test HIV positive, 97% do not have AIDS.

The Truth About African AIDS:

- **HIV antibody tests are not required for an AIDS diagnosis in Africa.**
- **African AIDS is diagnosed by four very imprecise clinical symptoms:**
  - **— Diarrhea**
  - **— Fever**
  - **— Persistent cough**
  - **— Weight loss greater than 10% over two months**
- **Tuberculosis, malaria, and measles far outnumber cases of AIDS in Africa.**
- **AIDS is not the leading cause of illness or death in any African nation.**

While Africa is the frequent target of damaging AIDS media reports, the total number of cases on the continent is relatively small. For example, from 1981 through 1999 cumulative AIDS cases for South Africa, the area claimed hardest hit by HIV, were just 12,825.

Exporting Extermination: AIDS Pills Kill!

It is undeniable that experimental AIDS treatments like protease inhibitors and AZT are all highly toxic, dangerous products. Strokes, muscle wasting, anemia, physical deformities, dementia, birth defects, organ failure, and death are some of the "side effects" of these poisons. Thousands of gay men in the 1980s and 1990s died from AZT poisoning. Now the U.S. State Department has elevated AIDS to the level of a threat to national security in order to gain public support for exporting AZT to pregnant African women. Outspoken leaders like South African President Thabo Mbeki—hard pressed to explain why developing nations stricken with famine and civil chaos should spend what little money they have on toxic anti-HIV drugs while millions starve—are relentlessly attacked as unfit and crazy by racist Western media outlets.

We invite you to investigate the growing international controversy over the cause and treatment of AIDS for yourself. Clip and mail the coupon below for a free copy of the groundbreaking book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* by AIDS survivor Christine Maggiore.

Fight the AID$ Fraud!

ACT UP San Francisco is the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—a militant, direct action organization committed to ending the AIDS fraud. General body meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at 1884 Market Street and our medical marijuana dispensary is open 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Get involved. Join ACT UP! End the abuse of AIDS.

Clip and mail the coupon below to receive a free copy of the book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* or contact us for more information at www.actupsf.com!

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Cuba Confronts New World Order

Continued from page 11

American countries, and together with the Cuban and Latin American blood of Che Guevara, murdered on instructions from U.S. agents in Bolivia, when he was wounded and being held prisoner after his weapon had been rendered useless by a shot received in battle.

The blood of Cuban construction workers, who were nearing completion of an international airport vital for the economy of a tiny island fully dependent on tourism, was shed fighting in defense of Grenada, invaded by the United State under cynical pretexts.

Cuban blood was shed in Nicaragua, when instructors from our Armed Forces were training the brave Nicaraguan soldiers confronting the dirty war organized and armed by the United States against the Sandinista revolution.

Over 2000 heroic Cuban internationalist combatants gave their lives fulfilling the sacred duty of supporting the liberation struggles for the independence of other sister nations. However, there is not one single Cuban property in any of those countries. No other country in our era has exhibited such sincere and selfless solidarity.

All Power to the People!

Hiding Cost

Continued from page 2

a $38 billion deficit in this state. The Draconian budget that the California Legislature adopted July 29, 2003 is yet another attack against the working and middle income families: with a $38 billion deficit, California Legislators will increase car owner tax by $4 billion, and cut $40 million for affordable housing projects from the general fund.

In education, California is a total failure (see page 1 for more). California State University, the state's largest university system with 408,000 students at 23 campuses, will lose $345.2 million. The students are largely from working class and minority families, and tuition was already raised by 30 percent this year. Student enrollment is to be reduced by 30,000, and faculty and staff will be reduced by 2300, while undergraduate tuition will increase $474 to $2,046. The University of California, where students from higher income families attend, will see $410 million cut from its $3 billion state-funded budget.

On top of this, Californians are expected to cough up an additional $35 million for the October 7, 2003 recall of the California governor, led by Republican U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa, a San Diego businessman. Issa spent $1.7 million of his personal money to bankroll the petition drive to garner the necessary 900,000 signatures to pass the initiative.

California's Workers' Compensation may not be able to pay tens of thousands of injured or disabled workers. The association is tottering on the edge of bankruptcy and is attempting to borrow $1.5 billion to stay afloat. "The association is bankrupt", said state Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi. "Their liabilities exceed their assets." Also, according to state officials, "The unemployment insurance fund won't be able to pay benefits to jobless workers by early 2004 without a financial shot in the arm," (*Contra Costa Times* staff writer George Avalos 7/28/03).

In the midst of these devastating trends, the words of Black Panther founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton come to mind: "The Black Panther Party says it is perfectly correct to organize the proletarians because after they are kicked out of the factory and are called unemployable or lumpen, they still want to live, and in order to live they have to eat. It is in the proletarian's own best interest to seize the machinery that he has made in order to produce in abundance, so he and his brethren can live. The wind is rising and the rivers flowing, times are getting hard and we can't go home again. We can't go back to our mother's womb, nor can we go back to 1917." Dr Huey P. Newton made this statement in a speech delivered at Boston College on November 18, 1970 —the words ring equally true today.

All Power to the People!

The Commemorator needs transportation to deliver the *real story* to you

A van, stationwagon, truck, or sedan would suffice.

Be a part of the solution by donating a vehicle to help educate to liberate, to end the economic devastation our government has brought on the world.

Please call: 510.652.7170

Huey's Corner

Continued from page 20

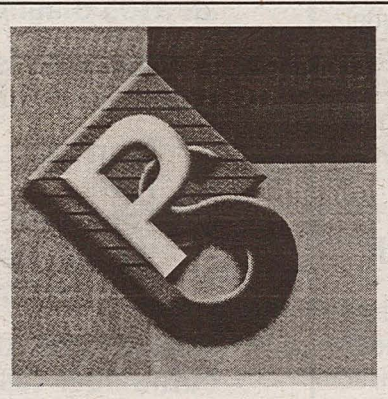
[67]FBI Memorandum from Supervisor Gary L. Penrith to SAC, San Francisco, December 5, 1973.

[68] Declaration of Gwen Fountaine Newton, August 7, 1977, and filed in People v. Newton, Nose. 64624A and 65919.

[69] Stinnette held an alleged art auction at his apartment to benefit prisoners shortly before Newton's was burglarized. He invited Newton to look at the art, most of which was supposedly done by prisoners. While Newton was there, Stinnette told him that he had "been close" to Eldridge Cleaver when they were both at Folsom Prison. Since the split between the Party and Cleaver was fairly well known at that time, Newton was puzzled as to just why Stinnette would boast of this particular connection. In retrospect, Newton concluded that Stinnette was, either consciously or not, attempting to warn him of his real, non-friendly purpose in being Newton's neighbor.

[70]Oakland Tribune, 22 February 1973 , p. l. The FBI memoranda concerning this incident and their connection with Stinette are in themselves interesting examples of deceit and self-deception. In one memorandum, the Bureau refers to the arrest report of the Oakland Police Department as indicating that "officers...arrived at the apartment of Stinnette...at 5:30 a.m. to serve an outstanding bench warrant authorized for night service. After repeatedly ringing the doorbell and waiting ...without receiving any response, officers inserted the pass-key into the lock and identified themselves as 'police officers.' At that point two shots were fired through the door at the officers from inside the room, one at waist height and the other at chest height. Both rounds passed through the door, but failed to hit the officers. Officers then pushed the door open...Stinnette made himself visible and surrendered. Officers examined the rifle and found that an expended cartridge was jammed in the chamber, disabling the rifle. When this fact was called to the attention of Stinnette, he said, 'Yeah, if it hadn't jammed I would have emptied it on you'..." (FBI Memorandum from Special Agent Wilbert J.Weiskirch to SAC, San Francisco, February 28, 1973.) Though this memorandum does not acknowledge an informant relationship between the Bureau and Stinnette, a later memorandum admits that "there has been no indication that the BPP was aware of our occupancy of the apartment next door to Newton's..." (FBI Memorandum from J. G. Deegan to W. R. Wannall, August 26, 1974.)

All Power to the People!



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CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten-Point Program which was written in 1966 by Party founders, Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten-Point Program outlines goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working class communities in the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Our Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is reactionary intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation). CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten-Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program
WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM, WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over *fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.*

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people on our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

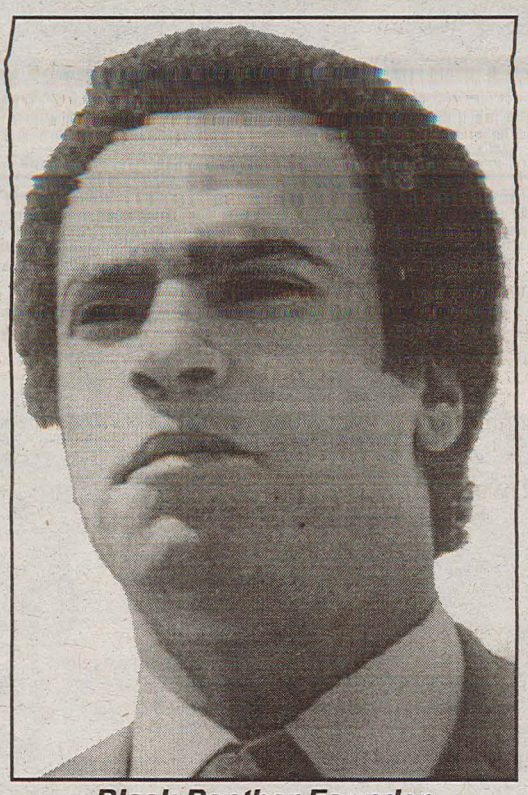
5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it is our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U. S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U. S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U. S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U. S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U. S. military are the victims *of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the* United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

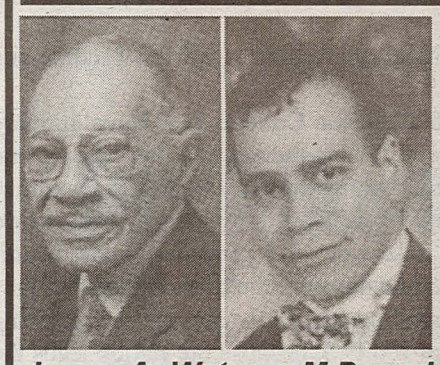


Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism. It is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

The James A. Watson Wellness Center



James A. Watson, M.D. and H. Geoffrey Watson, M.D.

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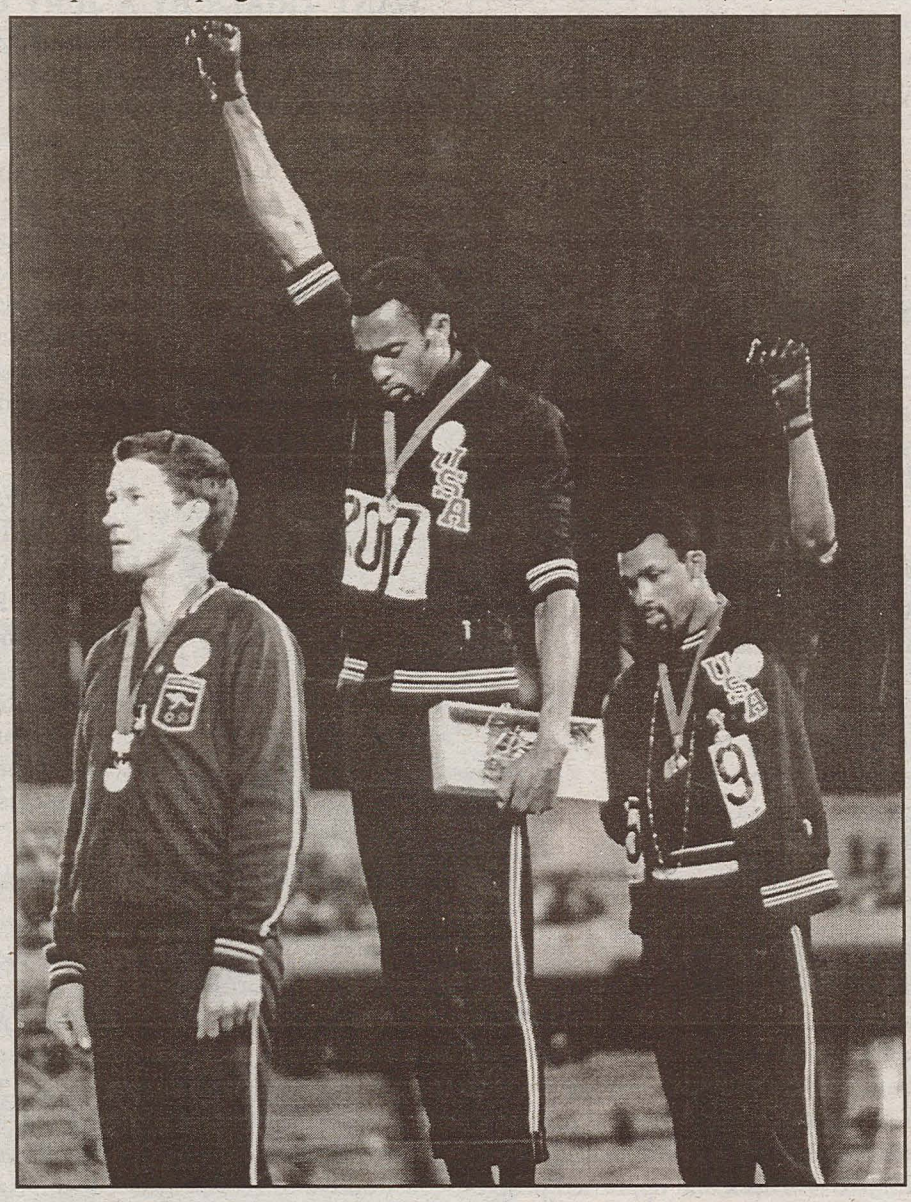
Men Opting For Vigorous Exercise

On October 10th and 11th 2003, the 100 Black Men Inc. will present one of Northern California's most powerful health and wellness events. Olympian Tommy Smith is the spokesperson for the 100's M.O.V.E. project and clearly represents the health and wellness goals of Black males everywhere. The 100 Black Men of the Bay Area recognize the importance of exercise, diet, and awareness of one's mind, body, and spirit. The program will include a reception on 10/10 followed by a Health and Wellness Fair at Lake Merritt on 10/11. Aerobics, music, food, health screenings, lectures and counseling will be proceeded by walk for wellness around the lake. For further information contact Dr. Mark Alexander, Chairman of the Health and Wellness Committee, 100 Black Men.

Call for further information: (510) 908-9785



Mexico City, 1968 Olympics: Tommy Smith (1st place 200 meter) and John Carlos (3rd place) bowed their heads, and raised black-gloved, clenched fists during the U.S. National Anthem to protest discrimination and poverty.

Dr. Yusef Bey Lives on

On October 3, 2003, Dr. Yusef Bey was laid to rest, with a dignifing ceremony at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California. His family appeared dignifing and determined, as Dr. Bey had taught them, and had carried himself. Several of his family members spoke in an eloquent manner as their ingenious father had so many time spoken. The message was that Dr. Yusef Bey lives in the lessons and principles he so-well taught his people and community.

What Are You Going to Do When Diabeties Comes for You?

By Dr. Geoffrey H. Watson

16 million people have diabetes in the USA and 8 million of those people don't even know that they have it. Diabetes is the result of insulin (made from the beta cell of the pancreas) being deficient in the body as the body being resistant to insulin. There are 2 types of diabetes: type I or juvenile onset (10%) and type II adult onset diabetes (90%). Diabetes is 27% more common in African Americans and seen at increased rate in Hispanics, Indians, and Asian island pacific people.

Type one diabetes may be genetic or may follow a viral infection and occurs in young persons below the age of 18. In type I diabetes, the pancreas stops making insulin and the diabetic requires insulin shots. These individuals are usually thin and the diabetes develops regardless of the individual's diet or physical activity. Type II diabetes typically occurs in adults who are overweight, eat lots of carbohydrates, and do not exercise. The body usually makes some insulin (which serves to lower blood sugar) but the insulin is not enough for the oversized-body. In adult diabetics who have a large waist (greater than 40), the body may become resistant to the little bit of insulin, which does exist. In type II diabetes a diet low in carbohydrates, weight loss and exercise are the initial therapies. Certain pills can make the pancreas produce insulin (sulfone uneas – Gliburide, Amaryl, etc.), which may help. Other pills reduce the body's resistance to insulin (Glucophage, Actos, and Avandia). Many adult onset diabetics will also need insulin.

The signs and symptoms of diabetes include fatigue, rapid weight loss, increased thirst, increased urination, blurred vision, numbness in the feet, increased vaginal yeast infections. Diabetes is the number one cause of amputation and blindness. It causes strokes, kidney failure and heart attacks.

What are you going to do when diabetes comes for you? Diabetes does not discriminate. Recently we have seen well educated and well to do African Americans suffer the damages of diabetes: Barry White, Luther Vandross, Patty Labelle, Paul Winfield, and Halle Berry… Diabetes can actually be prevented by regular exercise (5 days a week, 30 minutes a session), a low carbohydrate diet, weight loss, and by the use of pills such as Glucohpage, Actos and Avandia. Don't wait until it comes for you — prevent it now! A fasting blood sugar greater than 126 equals diabetes or a blood sugar greater than 180 equals diabetes. 8 million Americans don't even realize that they have diabetes so at least get a test (fasting glucose, glucose after eating). A test known as the Hemoglobin A1C tell what your average blood sugar is over a 3-month period. This test should be less than 6, which equals a blood sugar of 126.

Remember that your health is your wealth, and when you have your health you have everything.